Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

Palacios wants over 50% reprogramming authority. PAGE 2

Alleged victim in sex abuse case says she is not lying. PAGE 3

ROTARY HONORS UNCLE DAVE CHRYSTAL MARINO

For its traditional "Honor a Rotarian Day," the Rotary Club of Saipan gathered yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan to recognize and honor long-time member, charter president, and double past president Dave Sablan, fondly known as "Uncle Dave," for holding true to the Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," and his dedication to the "Four Way Test," along with his many contributions to the CNMI community.

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Kerfuffle over gravel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

Santos

» **Santos: Quarry materials delivery never an issue with former Saipan mayors**

» **Mayor says he wants finished materials and does not want to pay**

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho and Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos appear to be headed for a standoff over quarry materials and the Saipan Mayor's Office's need for the coral aggregate it needs to fix secondary roads in the municipality.

In fact, Santos said yesterday that DPL has not encountered nor experienced any issue in the extraction and delivery of quarry materials with former mayors, and only

See GRAVEL on Page 4

'OAG motion to depose Torres is not supported by CNMI law'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres has opposed the Office of the Attorney General's request that the ex-governor be deposed in the continuation of his petition

See OAG on Page 4

Torres

Rota public warned vs. possible flash floods

The public on Rota is being warned that flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible on the island. A flood watch is now in effect on Rota from this Wednesday morning through Friday afternoon.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Flooding may occur in poor

See ROTA on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

66

Fukushima residents worry nuke plant's wastewater release will be another setback

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

IWAKI, Japan (AP)—Beach season has started across Japan, which means seafood for holiday makers and good times for business owners. But in Fukushima, that may end soon.

AP PHOTO/HIRO KOMAE

Family members enjoy at the Usuiso beach in Iwaki, northeastern Japan, Thursday, July 6, 2023.

Within weeks, the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is expected to start releasing treated radioactive wastewater into the sea, a highly contested plan still facing fierce protests in and outside Japan.

Residents worry that the water discharge, 12 years after the nuclear disaster, could deal another setback to Fukushima's image and hurt their businesses and livelihoods.

"Without a healthy ocean, I cannot make a living." said Yukinaga Suzuki, a 70-year-old innkeeper at Usuiso beach

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NTT Group says its companies will provide support for Guam's disaster recovery efforts.
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The Justice Department has sued Texas Gov. Greg Abbott over a floating barrier on the Rio Grande.
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LIFE & STYLE
On his 68th birthday, a white-bearded Wisconsin man won the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Palacios wants over 50% reprogramming authority

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing insufficient funding to pay three critical expenses, including the retirees pensions of up to 25%, the Office of Management and Budget has asked the Legislature to grant reprogramming authority to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in excess of 50%.

OMB special assistant Virginia Villagomez requested Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) last Monday to pass a joint resolution authorizing the grant of such reprogramming authority.

Palacios

Aside from the 25% retirees' pension benefits, OMB's request also covers expenses associated with the underfunding of the Group Health and Life Insurance programs for active employees and retirees, and to support the operations and activities of the Health Net-work Program for patients being referred to off-island medical facilities for critical care that is not available in the CNMI.

Villagomez noted that, pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, the Legislature can authorize any reprogramming of appropriations by the governor in excess of 50% cumulative and in total.

Villagomez sent the Legislature a copy of the proposed joint resolution.

Senate panel receives COFA testimony

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing last July 13 to receive testimony regarding the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023, a legislative proposal submitted by the State Secretary and Interior Secretary.

During the hearing, committee chair Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) discussed the importance of renewing the Compacts of Free Association to counter China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region and the ongoing Compact negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"To date, the United States has provided at least $800 million in economic assistance to Palau, $2 billion to the Marshall Islands, and $4 billion to Micronesia—which has helped those countries invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and more. At the same time, the Compacts have underwritten America's sea lines of communication throughout the Indo-Pacific while promoting regional security by granting the United States exclusive powers to control military access to the Freely Associated States. Congressional consideration of this legislative proposal comes as China is increasingly challenging the United States for regional influence. It is therefore vital to maintain our bilateral political, military and economic relationship with the Freely Associated States under the Compacts," said Manchin.

At the hearing Manchin questioned Ambassador Joseph Y. Yun, special presidential envoy for Compact Negotiations, about mandatory funding for Compact assistance.

"Ambassador Yun, you noted in your testimony that representatives of the governments from each Freely Associated State signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this year. It is our understanding that, in doing so, the representatives accepted a good-faith topline offer of $6.5 billion in direct economic assistance over 20 years. I also understand that the total Compact proposal includes funding for the U.S. Postal Service at $634 million, bringing the total package to $7.1 billion over the next 20 years. As you noted in your testimony, it is important that we successfully renew the Compacts of Free Association 'to avoid any lapse in U.S. assistance to these important partners.' Why is the renewal of the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands important, and why is mandatory funding necessary?" asked Manchin.

"Mandatory funding is necessary so that these islands can plan their future. We've done it every time, in 1984 we did it, and we also did it in 2003. The only one we didn't do it for was Palau, as a result their agreement took eight years to be passed by Congress and they could not plan a yearly budget," replied Yun.

Manchin also asked about ongoing negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"We understand that negotiations with the Marshall Islands have yet to conclude. This is concerning because Congress faces a daunting deadline to complete our work on the Compacts before the end of the fiscal year. What is the plan for Compact negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands?" asked Manchin.

"To be completely frank with you, we have offered them (RMI) $2.3 billion over the next 20 years, and that memorandum was signed some months ago. So, it does puzzle me as well why it has become not acceptable. The reason they state is because the nuclear issues have not been resolved yet. I'd like to point out two aspects of nuclear issues. One is, as you rightly mentioned, our legal responsibility for nuclear liability has been met, and they have agreed to that. We've always felt that there were additional needs. Which is why, within the $2.3 billion that we offered, $700 million was set aside to put into the trust fund. And that $700 million could be used for development, education, environment, issues of nuclear [legacy in the four] Atolls, as well as other Atolls. From the beginning, the RMI government has insisted that they would like to have a bigger role in setting up their priorities, which is why we put that aside for them to decide how they want to apportion, with obviously some oversight from the United States," said Yun. ***(PR)***

Minor in sexual abuse case says she is not lying

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The alleged victim in an ongoing sexual abuse trial in Superior Court took to the witness stand yesterday morning and faced her alleged perpetrator to categorically state that she is not lying when she accused the man of molesting her when she was only about 11 or 12 years old.

In the continuation of the jury trial of Venitus "Vince" Ruwaath in Superior Court, the alleged victim in the case was the first to testify for the prosecution. After a series of questions about the incident, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds asked the minor if she is lying and she replied, "If I was lying, why would I be here?" Hinds then asked, "So you're telling the truth?" to which she responded, "Yes."

Ruwaath has already pleaded not guilty last year to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

In recounting the incident to the court, the alleged victim was asked to draw the setting of the time in question. She was also asked to draw the bedroom and the location of the people in the room—herself, Ruwaath, and her cousins at the time of the incident. The drawing was then put into evidence without opposition from the defense.

The minor also said that, as a result of the incident, her behavior changed. "I used to be happy and not always angry. …I'm more angry now," she replied when asked how she feels since the incident.

After cross-examination by the defense, the alleged victim's mother was the next to testify and was questioned by assistant attorney general Frances Depaman, who asked her how her daughter told her about the incident.

The minor's mother said she felt a lot of emotions at the time—from disbelief to shock—and ended up in the hospital's emergency room. The minor's mother then reported the incident a few days later to the police after her daughter asked her if she was going to do so.

The minor's mother said she noticed her daughter's behavior change—she would bang her head on the wall, claw her arms with her nails, isolate herself, and not do things that she used to enjoy doing.

The minor's mother said her daughter was also sexually abused at the age of 3. The charges against the perpetrator were dropped because he died before the case could be completed.

At a young age, the minor was diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD. Her mother sought help and the minor was prescribed medication that helped her. However, after the incident, her mother sought a psychiatrist's help when she noticed that her daughter's behavior changed again.

When Saipan Tribune left the courtroom yesterday morning, the court was in recess. The next witness up is the minor's pediatrician, Dr. Leticia Borja.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan is presiding over the case. The trial will continue this morning.

The trial first started on Monday morning with a trial selection and then opening statements by the prosecution and the defense. Only one witness, Department of Public Safety detective Shannon Dela Cruz, was called to testify.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the court found probable cause last June 10, 2022, to charge Ruwaath based on the testimony of a DPS detective. Ruwaath pleaded not guilty during his arraignment before presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja on June 13, 2022.

The complaint against Ruwaath stated that police received a walk-in complaint of a sexual abuse of a minor case last March 27, 2022.

During a forensic interview with the minor, the victim told authorities that the incident happened sometime in June 2020.

At a bail hearing last June 3, 2022, the court imposed a $20,000 cash bail on Ruwaath. He remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Kids exhibit pollution awareness art at JKPL

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Young students involved in the Friends of the Mariana Trench's stewardship project showed off their artwork at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe last Tuesday to spread awareness about pollution and to close the 2022-23 cohort of their Ocean Science Club's Project HOPE.

Middle school students involved in the Friends of the Mariana Trench stewardship project since November last year used the trash they found in beaches to create a depiction the effect of trash on the ocean.

"We had hosted two beach cleanups—one at Marine Beach and one in San Antonio—and all of those trash collected were turned into the art you see now," said Kina Rangamar, who is the junior project coordinator intern for the Friends of the Mariana Trench.

The art display is a partnership with JKPL and Friends of the Marianas Trench and is intended to spread awareness of ocean pollution.

Library director Erlinda Naputi credited JKPL staff member Ray Jr. Deleon Guerrero for his work on the project. "We are happy to be a part of their program. And having the space available for the public to use and display something that is educational and informative is always something we want to do."

Rangamar shared that past projects the students had done included area cleanups and power pole art. She shared that the Project HOPE's Ocean science club is open to all children on Saipan and they are working on making it also available on Tinian and Rota.

The students who participated in the project this year were mostly middle school students from Tanapag, Hopwood, Chacha, and San Antonio middle schools.

Rangamar acknowledged their leaders in this endeavor, project coordinator Romana Chong and FOTM executive director Laurie Peterka, and encouraged others to get involved in these programs.

"It really starts with the youth, and now that we have the youth involved, and as they're becoming more and more aware of the issues that we are facing here in the CNMI, now it's now our turn to step up and become more involved because this is our home…we live here, so it's really important that we care for it too," she said.

To learn more about the Friends of the Mariana Trench, check out their social media sites on Instagram and Facebook (@friendsofthemarianastrench). Also check out their website at www.friendsmarianatrench.org.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Young students involved in the Friends of the Mariana Trench's stewardship project show off their artwork at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe to spread awareness about pollution.

Faith, Hope and
KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

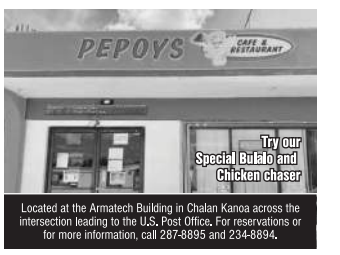
A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) FULL-TIME SHELTER WORKER

Interested applicant can email info@karidat.org to receive a position description and a fillable application form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of a valid CNMI Driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023 AT 4:00 PM.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 287-8895 and 234-8894.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-090
Opening Date: Friday, July 14, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant/Dispatch Operator
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$19,231.00 to $22,659.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Three (3)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to one (1) year of customer service experience.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; Receiving and routing service or problem calls; Entering, updating and maintaining data; Organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; Preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; Performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

FUKUSHIMA

From page 1

in Iwaki about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the plant. And the government has yet to announce when the water release will begin.

While officials say the possible impact would be limited to rumors, it's not yet clear if it will be damaging to the local economy. Residents say they feel "shikataganai"—meaning helpless.

Suzuki has requested officials hold the plan at least until the swimming season ends in mid-August.

"If you ask me what I think about the water release, I'm against it. But there is nothing I can do to stop it as the government has one-sidedly crafted the plan and will release it anyway," he said. "Releasing the water just as people are swimming at sea is totally out of line, even if there is no harm."

The beach, he said, will be in the path of treated water traveling south on the Oyashio current from off the coast of Fukushima Daiichi. That's where the cold Oyashio current meets the warm, northbound Kuroshio, making it a rich fishing ground.

The government and the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, or TEPCO, have struggled to manage the massive amount of contaminated water accumulating since the 2011 nuclear disaster, and announced plans to release it to the ocean during the summer.

They say the plan is to treat the water, dilute it with more than a hundred times the seawater and then release it into the Pacific Ocean through an undersea tunnel. Doing so, they said, is safer than national and international standards require.

Suzuki is among those who are not fully convinced by the government's awareness campaign that critics say only highlights safety. "We don't know if it's safe yet," Suzuki said. "We just can't tell until much later."

The Usuiso area used to have more than a dozen family-run inns before the disaster. Now, Suzuki's half-century old Suzukame, which he inherited from his parents 30 years ago, is the only one still in business after surviving the tsunami. He heads a safety committee for the area and operates its only beach house.

Suzuki says his inn guests won't mention the water issue if they cancel their reservations and he would only have to guess. "I serve fresh local fish to my guests, and the beach house is for visitors to rest and chill out. The ocean is the source of my livelihood."

The March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and contaminating their cooling water, which has since leaked continuously. The water is collected, filtered and stored in some 1,000 tanks, which will reach their capacity in early 2024.

The government and TEPCO say the water must be removed to make room for the plant's decommissioning, and to prevent accidental leaks from the tanks because much of the water is still contaminated and needs retreatment.

Katsumasa Okawa, who runs a seafood business in Iwaki, says those tanks containing contaminated water bother him more than the treated water release. He wants to have them removed as soon as possible, especially after seeing "immense" tanks occupying much of the plant complex during his visit few years ago.

An accidental leak would be "an ultimate strikeout ... It will cause actual damage, not reputation," Okawa says. "I think the treated water release is unavoidable." It's eerie, he adds, to have to live near the damaged plant for decades.

Fukushima's badly hit fisheries community, tourism and the economy are still recovering. The government has allocated 80 billion yen ($573 million) to support still-feeble fisheries and seafood processing and combat potential reputation damage from the water release.

His wife evacuated to her parents' home in Yokohama, near Tokyo with their four children, but Okawa stayed in Iwaki to work on reopening the store. In July, 2011, Okawa resumed sale of fresh fish—but none from Fukushima.

Local fishing was returning to normal operation in 2021 when the government announced the water release plan.

Fukushima's local catch today is still about one-fifth of its pre-disaster levels due to a decline in the fishing population and smaller catch sizes.

Japanese fishing organizations strongly opposed Fukushima's water release, as they worry about further damage to the reputation of their seafood as they struggle to recover. Groups in South Korea and China have also raised concerns, turning it a political and diplomatic issue. Hong Kong has vowed to ban the import of aquatic products from Fukushima and other Japanese prefectures if Tokyo discharges treated radioactive wastewater into the sea.

China plans to step up import restrictions and Hong Kong restaurants began switching menus to exclude Japanese seafood. Agricultural Minister Tetsuro Nomura acknowledged some fishery exports from Japan have been suspended at Chinese customs, and that Japan was urging Beijing to honor science.

"Our plan is scientific and safe, and it is most important to firmly convey that and gain understanding," TEPCO official Tomohiko Mayuzumi told The Associated Press during its plant visit. Still, people have concerns and so a final decision on the timing of the release will be a "a political decision by the government," he said.

Japan sought support from the International Atomic Energy Agency for transparency and credibility. IAEA's final report, released this month and handed directly to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, concluded that the method meets international standards and its environmental and health impacts would be negligible. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said radioactivity in the water would be almost undetectable and there is no cross-border impact.

Scientists generally agree that environmental impact from the treated water would be negligible, but some call for more attention on dozens of low-dose radionuclides that remain in the water, saying data on their long-term effect on the environment and marine life is insufficient.

Radioactivity of the treated water is so low that once it hits the ocean it will quickly disperse and become almost undetectable, which makes pre-release sampling of the water important for data analysis, said University of Tokyo environmental chemistry professor Katsumi Shozugawa.

He said the release can be safely carried out and trusted "only if TEPCO strictly follows the procedures as planned." Diligent sampling of the water, transparency and broader cross-checks—not just limited to IAEA and two labs commissioned by TEPCO and the government—is key to gaining trust, Shozugawa said.

Japanese officials characterize the treated water as a tritium issue, but it also contains dozens of other radionuclides that leaked from the damaged fuel. Though they are filtered to legally releasable levels and their environmental impact deemed minimal, they still require close scrutiny, experts say.

GRAVEL

From page 1

this time with with Camacho.

Camacho himself told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is not fighting with Santos and only requests for DPL to negotiate with the quarry operators to load the Saipan Mayor's Office's dump truck with finished quarry materials for free. Camacho said he is sending their dump truck to the quarry sites and he wants the quarry operators to load the quarry materials onto the truck since the Saipan Mayor's Office does not have the machinery for this. The mayor also said he does not want the operators to deliver the quarry materials to the project sites because his office has the dump truck.

Santos pointed out that Article II of the Temporary Occupancy Agreement issued to quarry operators does exempt CNMI government agencies from paying any charges for quarry materials that are extracted from the quarry site being operated by the permittee under a valid permit.

However, Santos said, the government agency is responsible for any and all costs associated with such extraction, to include heavy equipment rental for the extraction, loading and delivery from the quarry site to a project site.

Further, she said, processed materials are excluded from this provision and will be charged accordingly by the quarry operator.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Santos said yesterday that the mayor is allowed or authorized to get raw materials of 100 cubic yards per annum per quarry at no cost.

In line with this, Santos approved last July 11 Camacho's request to avail of the public benefit of DPL's permitted quarries. However, "if he wants to get processed materials, then he would have to pay the quarry company since processed materials are not covered under the public benefit provision of the quarry permit," Santos added.

Last July 10, Camacho wrote Santos to seek access to quarries to facilitate the road repair and improvement in villages. Camacho invoked Article 11 of the TOA, exempting the Saipan Mayor's Office from paying any charges for quarry materials, on the reasoning that his office does not have financial means to pay for "public property to be used for public services."

In approving Camacho's request, Santos said the quarry permittees will be notified of DPL's approval to allow the Office of the Mayor of Saipan to obtain from each quarry permittees, 100 cubic yards of coral or raw materials, annually and free to charge, for its roadway projects and for other public purposes.

The six quarry permittees are Construction Material & Supply Inc. in Kannat Tabla, Resource Management International Corp. in As Matuis, Success International Corp. in As Matuis, USA Fanter in Kannat Tabla, Hong Ye Rental in Dandan, and JG Sablan Quarry in As Matuis. Hong Ye Rental and JG Sablan Quarry are currently not operating.

Santos commends Camacho's enthusiasm and passion to enhancing community, specifically the repair and improvement of secondary roads within the villages.

"We understand and support your vision of providing convenience for the residents and to ensure that responding emergency vehicles can easily and swiftly respond to emergencies," the secretary said.

Camacho said yesterday that his office was billed last June for $79,000 to $90,000 by three quarry operators for the coral aggregates that his administration had obtained. He said he read the law about the community benefit so he does not want to pay a penny.

"The CNMI is broke," Camacho said.

The mayor said that DPL should negotiate with the quarry operators to have some sort of an offsetting arrangement with DPL.

Camacho also stated that he wants the finished quarry materials as he does not want to bring huge rocks to road improvement sites.

OAG

From page 1

against the Department of Finance regarding special prosecutor James Kingman's contract.

In a motion filed before the Superior Court last Tuesday, Torres' defense team—attorneys Viola Alepuyo, Matthew Holley, Victorino Torres, and Anthony Aguon—said the deposition motion is not supported by Commonwealth law and, in the OAG's case, may actually be a breach of Rule 1.9 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct (duties to a former client), hence the OAG's motion for deposition should be denied.

The OAG wants to depose Torres in order to find out how much public funds were spent to pay the four attorneys who represented him while he was still the governor.

In Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr.'s motion, he says the OAG believes a deposition is required to fully ascertain the facts and circumstances of his procurement of attorneys while he was governor.

However, his defense team says the former governor is a former client of the OAG when he was in office, since the OAG is the legal counsel to the CNMI governor. This, they said, may violate Rule 1.9 of the MRPC, which states that a lawyer who has formerly represented a client shall not later turn around and represent the original opponent.

Furthermore, the defense says the OAG's motion for a deposition conflicts with Rule 6 of the Commonwealth Rules of Procedure for administrative appeals; the deposition conflicts with Rules 26 and 30 of the Commonwealth Rules of Procedure; the OAG is precluded from raising the "unclean hands" defense for the first time on appeal; the OAG is precluded from contesting the facts alleged in the petitioner's underlying petition to the Department of Finance; and the court has the power to grant the relief that the petitioner sought before an agency.

Torres has questioned the validity of Kingman's original contracts with the OAG as a special prosecutor in Torres's case. Torres has asked the court to find the contract invalid for noncompliance with the Commonwealth's procurement regulations.

The former governor is also asking to vacate the Department of Finance's decision to deny his initial complaint on the grounds that the ruling was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law.

The defense also wants the court to rule that the special prosecutor's contract fails to comply with procurement regulations and is therefore void.

Alternatively, Torres asks that the court set aside the DOF's final agency ruling and remand the matter back to the agency for a decision on the merits of his request for declaratory relief by an independent and unbiased hearing officer.

Torres' case was initially filed on April 8, 2022, charging him with 12 counts of misconduct in public office, one count of theft, and one count of contempt. Torres has denied the charges.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Associate Judges Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Wesley Bogdan, Joseph N. Camacho and Kenneth L. Govendo have recused themselves from the lawsuit for varied conflict of interest reasons.

ROTA

From page 1

drainage and urban areas. Storm drains and ditches may become clogged with debris.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to become numerous to widespread by today, Wednesday, and continue into Friday. Heavy downpours are expected, which could lead to flash flooding.

Residents of Rota are advised to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings that may be issued. ***(PR)***

US House committee OKs $6.9M for 3 CUC projects, 6 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee advanced two fiscal year 2024 funding bills this week containing $6.9 million for nine projects in the CNMI, including three for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., as requested by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the fiscal year 2024 bill report for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee that was made available Tuesday provides $2,879,256 for three CUC projects.

He said the fiscal year 2024 bill report for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee that was released Wednesday includes $4,057,000 in earmarks for six projects.

The annual spending bills now head to the floor for consideration by the full House.

Of the $2.87 million funding for CUC projects, $959,752 each is for the Dandan Homestead Sewer Line Project; Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant Underground Storage Tank Remediation; and PFAS Remediation System-Granular Activated Carbon Replacement.

Of the $4.05 million in earmark funding, $1 million is for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) Construction; $850,000 each for Route 36 (San Juan-Bird Island) Phase 1 Station and Route 33 (Beach Road) Improvements Phase 1; $500,000 each for Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold) Safety Improvements Phase 1 and Rota Public Market; and $357,000 for 30 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel.

To date, Sablan said, the Appropriations Committee has approved 14 of his Community Project Funding requests, totaling $11,436,256.

SNILD bill will allocate $314,550 to 3 NGOs operations, funding to complete pavilions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a local bill that seeks to allocate 314,550 to three nonprofit organizations and provide funding to complete ongoing projects and for the renovation and construction of pavilions, recreational areas and public buildings in Precinct 4 on Saipan.

With all 18 SNILD members present voting "yes" during a special session, House Local Bill 23-16, Draft 1, now goes to the governor for action.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

Reps. Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Malcolm J. Omar (Ind-Saipan) are co-authors of the bill.

Before the voting, House Vice Speaker Joel C. Camacho stated that he will be working with Omar to ensure that the reporting requirements are met and the funds will be made available to the nonprofit organizations.

Under the legislation, $100,000 will be allocated for the renovation and construction of pavilions, recreational areas and the public buildings in Precinct 4. The expenditure authority shall be the Department of Public Works secretary.

A total of $69,775 will be allocated each for the Talabwogh Stars Association and Natibu Sports Association for the operations to conduct and facilitate (not limited to Precinct 4) sports programs, arts and culture programs, and youth activities. The expenditure authority shall be the president of the two associations.

A total of $75,000 will be allocated to the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Association so it could establish a Junior Golf Program. The association president shall have expenditure authority.

The expenditure authorities of the funds allocated under the bill shall be responsible to report all expenses to the chairperson of the SNILD, showing the expenditure of the funds.

During the miscellaneous part of the session, Rep. Vincent Seman Aldan (Ind-Saipan) expressed concern over an apparent lack of reporting by these nonprofit organizations.

Aldan said one nonprofit organization was awarded $50,000 in 2022 and is now asking for $100,000 for the second phase of the same project.

"I would like to see a report that identifies how, where, [and] when the $50,000 was spent," said Aldan, without naming the nonprofit organization.

He recommended that any nonprofit organization that requests for any kind of budget in the future must provide the SNILD with all information on how the fund that was previously awarded was spent, and all the positive impact that funding had.

SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) reminded delegation members that every local appropriation contains a clause that mandates nonprofit organizations to report their expenditures after all those appropriation are depleted.

Sablan said that, as they move along, he is sure they will be getting reports on the funding that were previously appropriated to all these NGOs.

He assured that he will follow up on all those groups that previously received funding in previous legislatures and will require the same under the 23rd Legislature.

LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE
Sgt. Qyson Legette, a 14T – Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator / Maintainer assigned to 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, stands next to a recently fired MIM-104 Patriot launcher at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport, Palau last July 17, 2023.
U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY MAJ. TREVOR WILD

Job Vacancy Announcement

Graphic Designer (Saipan, MP)

Job Duties
- Provide drafting and design services by preparing and maintaining graphic drawings that compile to create a set of architectural plans;
- Prepare graphic designs from general instruction and preliminary sketches, diagrams, or schematics;
- Prepare drawings from conceptual plan to Development Plan and construction record drawings;
- Make sure of CAD to prepare engineering drawings consisting of plans, sections, and details from rough sketches to established standards and procedures;
- Ensure compliance with required design safety factors, tolerances, and specifications.

Requirements
- Associate's Degree or Equivalent; Major(s) and/or field(s) of study in Architecture/Architectural Studies/Eco-Friendly Architecture.
- At least 24 months of work experience as a graphic designer is required;

Please send a resume and transcript to
BE TO CORPORATION, Attn: Da Young CHUNG at
P.O. Box 7670 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

ANGELO A. NICOLAS
P.O. Box 501937, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 788-1659

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE:	] **Civil Action**
	] **No. 23 – 0006 CV**
ESTATE OF RONNIE DAVID PANCHO	] **SECOND NOTICE**
	] **OF HEARING**
	]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Angelo A. Nicolas has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Ronnie David Pancho, deceased and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on August 3, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 am before Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Ronnie David Pancho, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to the petitioner, Angelo A. Nicolas with postal address at P.O. Box 501937, Saipan MP 96950. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: July 12, 2023

/s/
Judge Joseph N. Camacho

Name: **JOCELYN ARMAS FERRER**
Address: **P.O. BOX 505235**
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: **(670) 588-1728**

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct:	] FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0135
JOCELYN ARMAS FERRER Petitioner(s)	] **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-091

Opening Date: Friday, July 14, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Technician: Customer Service Representative
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$23,923.00 - $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Four (4)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and four (4) years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

NMC builds filmmaking capacity among high school students

Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Public School System have partnered to launch an exciting and innovative initiative, "Cinema on Saipan: Movie Making in the Marianas," a program aimed at nurturing the creative talents of high school students.

Facilitated and coordinated by the NMC's Community Development Institute, the three-week cinema program aims to provide a platform for aspiring filmmakers to explore their passion for storytelling and film production in a supportive and educational environment.

Cinema on Saipan is a comprehensive program designed to introduce PSS high school students to the art and craft of filmmaking. Throughout the course of three weeks, the program will immerse students in various aspects of the filmmaking process, from pre-production to post-production. Each week will be dedicated to specific topics to ensure a holistic learning experience.

The instructor for the program is Demetrius Borge, a Film and Media Culture major from Middlebury College. Borge brings a wealth of experience, having produced captivating films for prestigious organizations. As an esteemed instructor, he has taught photography and college cinema courses, inspiring countless students to explore their creative abilities. His versatility as a producer, director, editor, and cinematographer has earned him numerous awards, and he has collaborated with renowned clients including Target, Vermont Small Business Development Corp., Middlebury College, and The Wall Street Journal.

NMC

Sheryne Yang and Raja Sevugan, participants of Northern Marianas College's cinema program, film a scene together.

"I hope that my students will look at films a little bit differently," said Borge, "to understand the complexity, efforts, and decision-making of producing a film, to see themselves as storytellers and filmmakers capable of creating a great piece of cinema, to take an idea, turn it into a script, shoot it, edit it, and screen it. "

During the first week, students will delve into the fundamental principles of filmmaking. Borge will guide participants in understanding the art of storytelling, screenplay writing, and the essential roles within a film production crew. This foundational knowledge will serve as a cornerstone for the students as they embark on their cinematic journey.

The second week will see students stepping into the exhilarating world of film production. They will receive hands-on training in cinematography, learning camera techniques, lighting, and sound recording. Additionally, participants will explore the post-production process, gaining expertise in video editing, sound design, and visual effects using industry-standard equipment and software.

In the program's final week, students will work collaboratively in groups to create their own short films. This team-based approach will encourage teamwork, effective communication, and problem-solving skills as participants work together to bring their cinematic visions to life.

The culmination of the Cinema on Saipan: Movie Making in the Marianas program will be a showcase event where the students' short films will be premiered. This special occasion will celebrate the hard work and dedication of the students, offering them an opportunity to share their creative achievements. The showcase will undoubtedly inspire and captivate the community, showcasing the immense talent and potential of the CNMI's youth.

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said the program is part of the ongoing momentum at NMC.

"This is an exciting time at the college. With new facilities, new programs, and new services, we continue to launch programs that meet the needs of the Commonwealth. This film seminar is a key part of that overall effort. Not only does it fulfill a promise we made to invest in the CNMI's nascent film industry by providing training with high-end production value, but it also empowers these young, aspiring filmmakers to tell compelling and authentic stories from their perspectives. Their stories matter; their voices matter; and we are giving them a valuable platform that amplifies both. I cannot wait to see their films on the big screen," Deleon Guerrero said.

Cinema on Saipan marks a momentous occasion for NMC as it proudly hosts its inaugural film program. The collaboration with PSS reflects both institutions' commitment to nurturing creativity and providing a platform for young minds to explore their artistic inclinations. This program is set to inspire and empower a new generation of filmmakers in the CNMI, paving the way for the foundation of the local film industry. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 093

Opening Date: Friday, July 21, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, August 03, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Monitor and perform preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes, and lift stations.
- Assist in taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments.
- Cleans, maintains, repairs and paints submersible pumps.
- Lifts, inspects and replace submersible pumps.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspecting and troubleshooting principles; Preventive maintenance principles; Inventory control principles.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev.1

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev. 1 Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing n**o later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 10, 2023,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

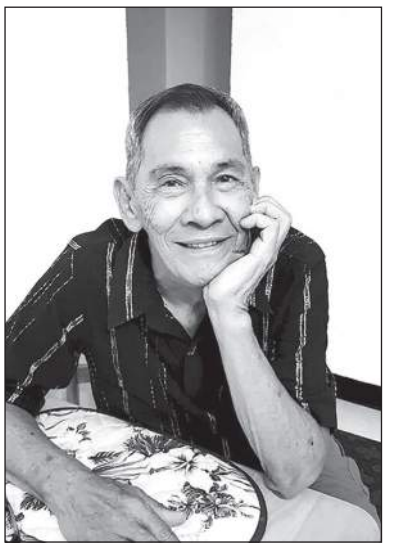
UOG Press launches CHamoru author's 2nd novel

The University of Guam Press will be launching *Juanit*, its second book by acclaimed CHamoru author Chris Perez Howard this Friday, July 28, from 4pm to 6pm at the Hagåtña Public Library. The event will be open to the public and there will be free refreshments.

Juanit is a young adult novel that tells the story of a young girl of mixed ancestry who is uprooted from her home in Guam. When a series of painful events lead her back to the island, she must learn how to make peace with both sides of her identity.

The novel is inspired by the experiences of Howard and two of his friends during the period in which the novel takes place.

"At an early age, I was aware that I was of mixed ancestry. In my youth, when someone would question my identity, I told them I was



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM PRESS

Juanit author Chris Perez Howard.

'half-American and half-Guamanian,'" writes Howard in the book's preface. "It took me a long time to understand that neither term defined me. Today, if someone asks me, I tell them that I am CHamoru."

The novel also explores themes that may be unsettling to some readers, such as sexual abuse, teen pregnancy, drug use, and the loss of a parent.

"While these themes may be hard to talk about, it's important that we do not shy away from them," said UOG Press publicist Via De Fant. "It's through critical discussions of hard topics that we can strengthen communities and bridge gaps, especially with our youth. We invite people to join us at this special launch to learn more about Juanit and its importance in the literary community."

The book is available for a pre-sale price of $15.

Howard's first novel, *Mariquita–Revisited*, will also be available for purchase at the launch. The book, tragic and tender with its honesty, chronicles the resilience of Howard's mother during the waning days of World War II. It is considered one of the most widely read novels about the wartime experience in Guam.

Pre-sale Price
$15
Juanit
Chris Perez Howard
Join us for the launch of Chris Perez Howard's latest novel, Juanit.
Friday, July 28, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Guam Public Library—Hagåtña Branch

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM PRESS

A flyer shows the cover of *Juanit*.

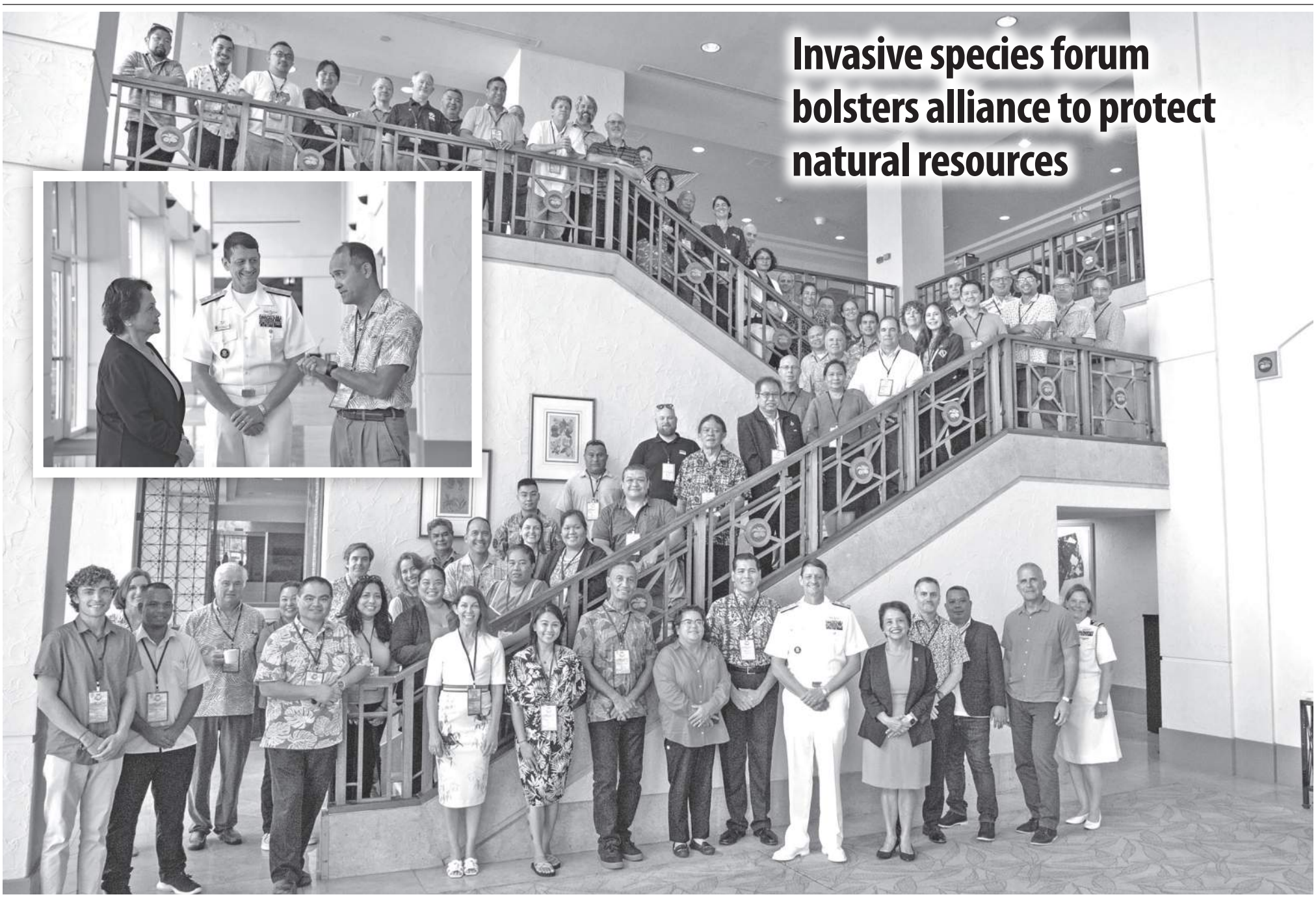
Patrons can purchase *Juanit* and *Mariquita—Revisited* for a special bundle price of $27.

Juanit is available for purchase online at https://uogpress.com/product/juanit/, as well as at bookstores on the island, including Bestseller and the Triton Store.

About the UOG Press

The University of Guam Press publishes an array of academic and literary books and journals with a specific focus on the unique history, environment, peoples, cultures, and languages of the islands that make up the Western Pacific region. Visit uogpress.com to learn more about them and browse their wide selection of local art and literature. ***(UOG)***

Invasive species forum bolsters alliance to protect natural resources



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2023 Indo-Pacific Invasive Species Forum kicked off in Guam with remarks from Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman. Joint Region Marianas environmental specialists were in attendance, along with participants who have flown in from around the world. Attendees learned about key topics, including regional biosecurity, invasive species impact on local economies, and emerging programs for improved invasive species research and mitigation.

ASAN, Guam—The government of Guam and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command hosted the first annual 2023 Invasive Species Forum in Guam last July 17-19 at the Hyatt in Tumon.

The ISF provided an opportunity for civilian agencies, militaries, and subject matter experts in the Indo-Pacific region to share information on the current state of research and development activities for the detection, surveillance, mitigation, and eradication of invasive species.

"Biosecurity is a multifaceted commitment that we must all uphold," said Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, commander of Joint Region Marianas, who delivered opening remarks. "Invasive species pose risks to our military readiness by affecting training areas, material movement, and the health of military personnel. For our local communities they threaten biodiversity, food and water security, and quality of life. As our military continues to expand our posture throughout the region to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific, it is vitally important that we also do our best to protect the precious environments and ecosystems where we operate," he said.

The 2023 ISF has brought together biosecurity stakeholders from across the Indo-Pacific region to discuss invasive species management and identify needs to improve biocontrol and mitigation. Additionally, the forum promoted mutual understanding of environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability, and provided an opportunity for participants to share best practices in invasive species mitigation.

The U.S.-sponsored event included representatives from Australia, American Samoa, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Northern Marianas Islands, the Philippines, Thailand, and Tonga.

The event was designed to enable participating nations to gauge the success of, and identify gaps in current methods, creating opportunities for process improvement and future cooperation. The forum included activities that reinforced ISF goals and objectives, and provided an opportunity for the government of Guam to showcase its ongoing work related to invasive species management. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Cleanup on branches 1, 2 and 3: All parts of official Washington need better ethics

Healthy skepticism of authority is a very good thing—as power should never go unchecked in a democracy. But corrosive distrust of government of, by and for the people is a very bad thing—because pervasive cynicism, the reflexive belief that those we elect and the public servants beneath them have ulterior motives, leads to disengagement and division and drift. We therefore commend, with caveats, two legislative pushes in Washington to ensure that federal officials do more to earn the trust we put in them.

The first is by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, whose bill on Supreme Court ethics Thursday won the assent of a slim majority of the Judiciary Committee.

Every member of the federal judiciary has to follow a code of conduct—with the exception of the nine men and women who sit on the highest bench in the land. That's akin to referees calling fouls on every basketball player except those who make the All-Star team.

In the wake of revelations that Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito received and never disclosed big-money gifts from wealthy donors, Whitehouse's bill is modest. So as not to interfere with a coequal branch of government, it doesn't prescribe what that the Supreme Court's code of conduct should be; it simply requires justices to adopt a code; create a mechanism to investigate alleged violations; and improve disclosure and transparency when a justice has a connection to a party in a case before the court.

That's the least the immensely powerful members of the most exclusive club in America can do to show a healthy respect for the rest of us—but congressional Republicans are dead-set against the legislation, treating it as a partisan attack. Don't they realize that by taking that posture, they only feed the very distrust of the court they lament?

Fortunately, a second attempt to protect the integrity of federal officials is bipartisan. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Josh Hawley—he who fled the Capitol on Jan. 6 after raising his fist in a show of solidarity—are working together to ban individual stock ownership and trading for members of Congress, senior executive branch officials, and their families.

We worry about the ramifications of telling anyone with any market holdings that they can't serve in the legislative or executive branches, not even if they keep their investments at arm's length; that would rule out service by a slew of successful, talented people. So we'd rather see the legislation modified to allow blind trusts to trade in securities, provided the people in power have no knowledge of what's being bought and sold and when.

But we're all for bolstering the prohibitions already in place. Though it's technically against for lawmakers to trade on material nonpublic information, such a ban is hard to enforce—and does next to nothing to prevent, say, someone with a pile of tech or oil or agriculture or financial company holdings from benefiting from favoritism toward the industries whose rules they write or implement.

Voters should have no doubt that the people who run their government are making decisions based on their best understanding of what's in their constituents' interest, not based on what may line their personal pockets.

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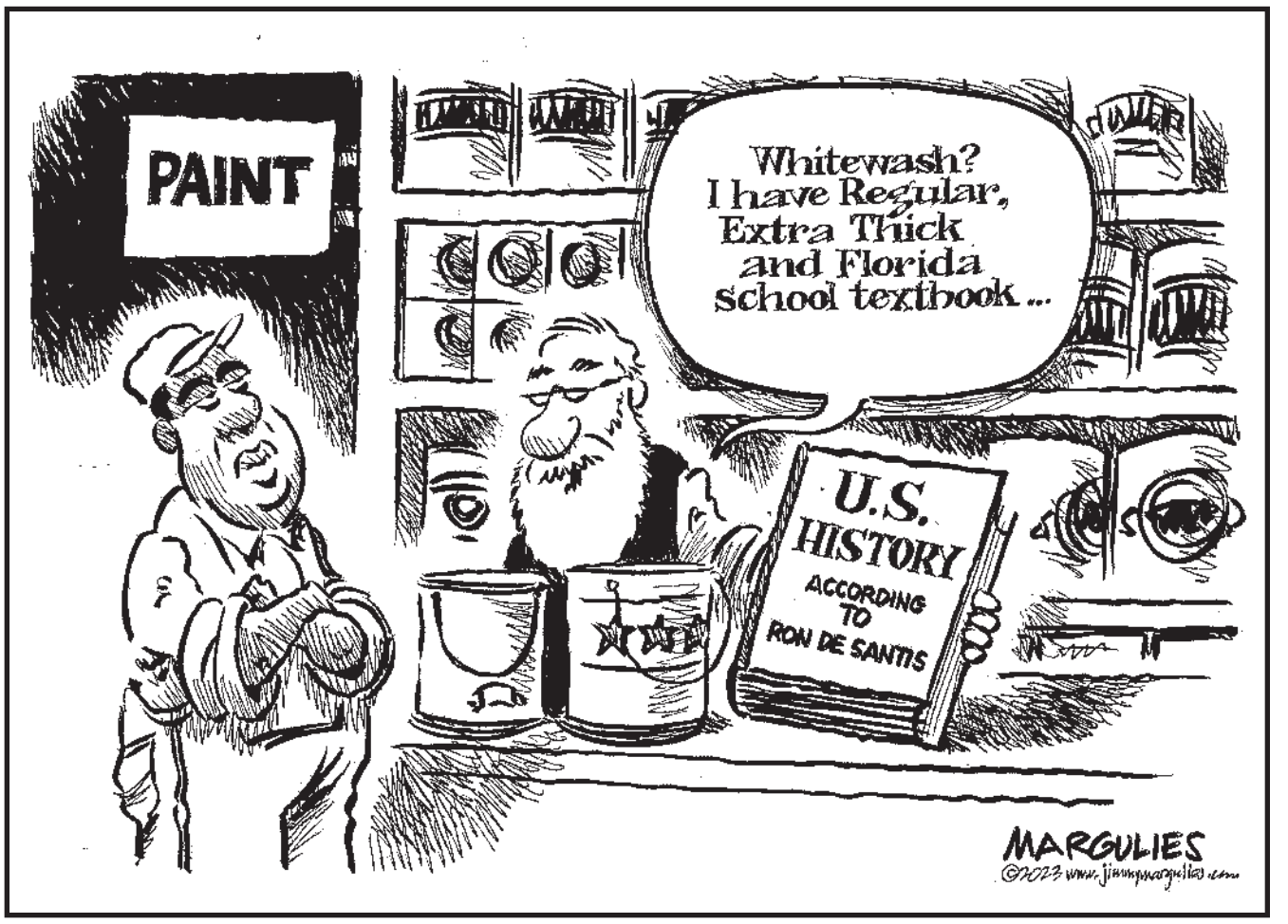
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Whitewash? I have Regular, Extra Thick and Florida school textbook...
U.S. HISTORY ACCORDING TO RON DE SANTIS
MARGULIES
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Game not over: Time to reimagine elite college admissions

By ALLI MYATTL
The Fulcrum

Alli Myatt is the co-founder of The Equity Practice, and a Public Voices Fellow through The OpEd Project. She holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision declaring affirmative action programs that use race- conscious rating systems unconstitutional is like a game of chess.

It offers an opportunity to completely overhaul admissions to be more liberatory and serve the students and society better.

Growing up, my brother tried to teach me how to play chess by revealing the basics a little at a time. After I would move a piece, he would reveal another rule that would allow him to capture one of my pieces and take him one step closer to beating me at the game. He clearly designed the conditions for play so he could win. I quickly declared the game over because he was making the rules to advantage himself.

Similarly, it is necessary to declare "game over" for the current approach to elite university admissions. The SCOTUS decision inspired outrage and condemnation.

But it is crucial to not return to what was. The current admissions process was rigged from its inception to advantage rich, white people and the current model does not even predict success in school.

Audre Lorde wrote, "For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change." It's time to redesign these processes with new tools.

The original intention still affects Harvard. Its legacy admission policies benefit the wealthiest in our nation.

This is not just about Harvard; other elite institutions such as Princeton, Yale, and Duke universities as well as Massachusetts Institute of Technology have similar legacies. A 2017 study by economist Raj Chetty showed there were more students from families in the top 1 percent of income earners than students from the bottom 50 percent at elite colleges.

Lest someone argue admissions should focus on class and not race, it is important to note that the top 1 percent of income earners are over 90 percent white. As SCOTUS Justice Ketanji Jackson Brown stated in her dissent in the Affirmative Action Case, "Deeming race irrelevant… does not make it so in life."

It is devastating to see the level of dismay of students of color, realizing the highest court in the land deemed them unwelcome at elite colleges and that they may buy into the lie that the only reason they could get into these schools is because of their race.

As a Black former student who attended two Ivy League colleges during my academic career, I know what it's like to have your accomplishments diminished and discounted due to your race despite evidence of your qualifications.

I also worked in admissions and have been in the rooms when these decisions are being made. I can confirm unequivocally that students of color who are admitted are extraordinary, accomplished and 100 percent deserve to be there.

As Toni Morrison once said, "The very serious function of racism is distraction. It keeps you from doing your work. It keeps you explaining, over and over again, your reason for being… None of this is necessary. There will always be one more thing."

Students deserve an admissions process that does not distract them from their brilliance and results in the equitable outcomes our society desperately needs.

Administrators, faculty, funders, policy makers and all stakeholders need to support colleges and universities to educate all future leaders. Society benefits when leaders reflect the entire community.

To be sure, some may name the alleged harm that happens to Asian students as a result of Affirmative Action, though several Asian leaders have refuted these claims. This SCOTUS case was bought by a white man, and no Asian student testified on his behalf.

These tactics pitting one group against another are attempts to separate people of color from each other and keep them from acting in solidarity to create admissions practices where all students can shine.

Higher education institutions need to be anti-racist. This is possible by identifying what qualities contribute to student learning and the many ways that students might demonstrate those qualities in a holistic way.

It is urgent to abolish the measures that advantage the privileged and wealthy. Society will be more just if enrollment efforts are not a rigged game and administrators find ways to see brilliance in more places and bring those students together to learn from each other.

That is a win-win.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Making tourism our business: The state of the industry

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. This column is part of a regular monthly column from the MVA dedicated to highlighting the important role that tourism plays in the CNMI. It will also feature guest contributors from time to time.

Everyone's excited about the upcoming Flame Tree Arts Festival—the longest running arts and culture festival in Micronesia—and there's no better time than now to start a conversation about what draws visitors to our beautiful Marianas.

Welcome to "Making Tourism Our Business," a periodic series shared in cooperation with our local media toward the goal of engaging everyone in our Marianas community with important updates, opinions, and opportunities to get involved related to our No. 1 economic driver, tourism.

Over the last two months since returning to the helm of the Marianas Visitors Authority, I've had the opportunity to work with staff and other stakeholders in assessing the state of the tourism industry, identifying the major issues we face as a community when it comes to tourism and taking some solid steps forward in moving The Marianas closer to a full recovery of our tourism industry. It's a very difficult time, and money is short, but we are up to the task.

In this inaugural column, allow me to give a brief update on our source markets and issue a call to action on one of the biggest obstacles I see to making our home a world-class tourist destination.

In short, overall arrivals to The Marianas this fiscal year stand at 121,957 as of June 2023. That's only 43% of year-to-date arrivals in fiscal year 2019 before the pandemic. We still have a long way to go in recovery.

First, our source markets. As many of you know, Korea is doing great. We have 34 weekly flights from Seoul-Incheon operated by Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'way. Jeju Air just launched four weekly flights from Busan—the second-largest city in Korea—on July 19, and we are launching a media blitz to fill those flights and drum up more demand from this important market. In short, demand in Korea for The Marianas is already strong, and we anticipate recovering 78% of air seats from Korea by the end of this fiscal year compared to pre-COVID. That's solid progress!

Flights from Japan started in September 2023 with flights three times a week from Tokyo- Narita. Japan has only started gaining real momentum this summer, thanks to the lifting of various government restrictions related to the pandemic and other factors that were keeping Japanese in-country, including a lingering fear of COVID. We're happy to see summer bookings picking up, and United Airlines has published their schedule of flights through summer 2024. At 5,000 visitors, arrivals from Japan this fiscal year are 50% of what they were compared to fiscal year 2019—but that is only a fraction of what arrivals from Japan were in the 1990s. There is a lot of work ahead, but Japan is a highly favorable market that we cannot afford to neglect. And we won't under my watch.

China. The position of the CNMI administration—due to geopolitical concerns—is to pivot away from China in terms of government tourism promotions. Also working against us, the number of flights between China and the U.S.A.—as mutually agreed to by the national governments—is still only a fraction of what it was before the pandemic. Only 24 flights a week, to be exact. Most of those limited flights are flying into more populated destinations in the mainland, so The Marianas will have to wait. However, we are starting to see a few hundred Chinese visitors a month arriving via Seoul and Tokyo, so there is still some demand for The Marianas.

There has been discussion on the feasibility of opening other source markets. Opening new markets will require a lot of money, money the local government does not have. The administration, the MVA, and other departments are exploring federal funding sources for that.

But as a I mentioned to legislators during the MVA's budget hearing a few weeks ago, other than funding there is one huge obstacle still standing in the way of having a vibrant tourism industry, and it is entirely within our own hands to control—the sad state of our destination. On the one hand, we have a stunning ocean environment second to none, friendly people, and a vibrant multicultural community highlighted by indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture. And tourists love it! On the other, we have derelict buildings in our downtowns and villages, scenic sites and public facilities in a state of disrepair, a lack of care for preserving trees and our natural aesthetic, and the list goes on. Even if we have the biggest marketing budget in the world, if the product is substandard, no one will buy it. We cannot afford to develop a reputation as a rundown and old destination, and the time for action is now. The state of our home is a problem for us all. What can you do to help?

Over the coming months, we will explore these issues and more in greater detail, speaking openly about our challenges, recognizing best practices and successes and, most importantly, sharing ideas on how each government agency, business, community group, and individual citizen can personalize the Marianas Visitors Authority's longstanding slogan of "Tourism is Everybody's Business" by taking specific action within your personal area of control on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

I invite you all to work with the MVA toward the common goal creating a home and destination we can be proud of by "Making Tourism Our Business."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A journey to healing

Facing a cancer diagnosis is undoubtedly one of life's most daunting challenges. However, in the case of one remarkable individual, Dr. Frederic Levy of ENT Carolina, a gifted otolaryngologist and dedicated surgeon, it was an opportunity to make a positive impact and restore hope. Through his exceptional surgical expertise and unwavering commitment to patient care, Dr. Levy successfully operated on our mother suffering from mouth cancer, providing her with a renewed chance at life.

Dr. Levy is renowned in the medical community for his specialized skills in otolaryngology and cancer surgeries, particularly in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Throughout his illustrious career, he has earned a reputation for meticulous precision and compassionate patient care. His empathetic approach ensures that each patient feels at ease during what is often an anxiety-ridden journey.

When *Nanay* (our mother) was diagnosed with mouth cancer, it was undoubtedly a challenging moment for the entire family. However, upon meeting Dr. Levy, we were filled with a sense of reassurance. His thorough explanation of the surgical procedure and treatment plan instilled confidence and trust in his abilities.

The surgery was a complex and delicate procedure, requiring the removal of affected tissue while preserving vital structures and functions of the mouth. Dr. Levy's steady hand and extensive experience in performing such surgeries were evident throughout the process, and his surgical team worked seamlessly to ensure a successful outcome.

Dr. Levy's surgical prowess was nothing short of astounding. His steady hands and years of experience in oral cancer resections were evident as he meticulously removed all the affected tissue. Thanks to his skillful technique, he was able to achieve clear margins, giving us hope that no cancerous cells were left behind.

Following the successful surgery, *Nanay* began her journey to recovery, and under Dr. Levy's watchful eye and the exceptional care she received in the SICU of Caromont Regional Medical Center, she made remarkable progress. His personalized post-operative care and ongoing support played a vital role in her speedy recovery. Dr. Levy's dedication extended beyond the operating room, providing emotional support to both our mom and our family throughout the healing process.

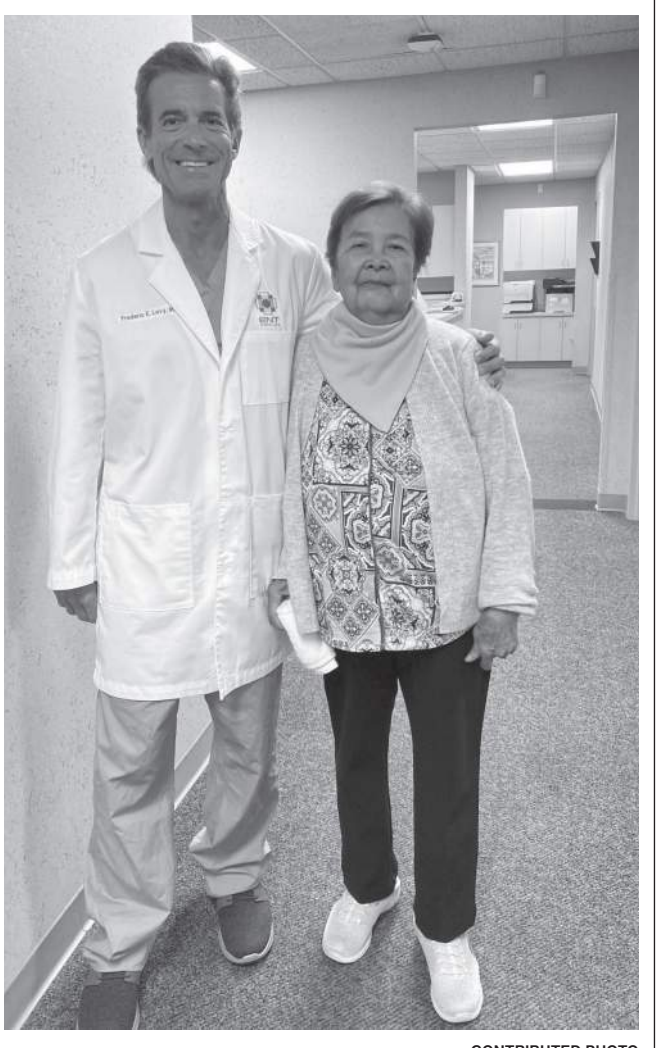
Dr. Levy's exceptional surgical skills and compassionate patient care make him an exemplary doctor in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery. His successful resection of the affected tissue from the mouth cancer patient has not only given Nanay a new lease on life but also reaffirmed the belief in the power of skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals.

As *Nanay* continues her journey to healing and full recovery, we are all eternally grateful for the skillful hands and kind heart of Dr. Levy. His unwavering commitment to excellence and patient-centered care will undoubtedly continue to positively impact the lives of many, leaving behind a legacy of healing and hope in the face of adversity.

Knowing and recognizing these manifestations as warning signs of cancer may facilitate an early diagnosis, which is generally associated with better prognoses (CAUTION UP):

Change in bowel or bladder habits
A sore that does not heal
Unusual bleeding or discharge
Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere
Indigestion or difficulty swallowing
Obvious cough or warts or moles
Nagging cough or persistent hoarseness
Unexplained weight loss
Pernicious anemia

Franco Mendoza
Fina Sisu, Saipan



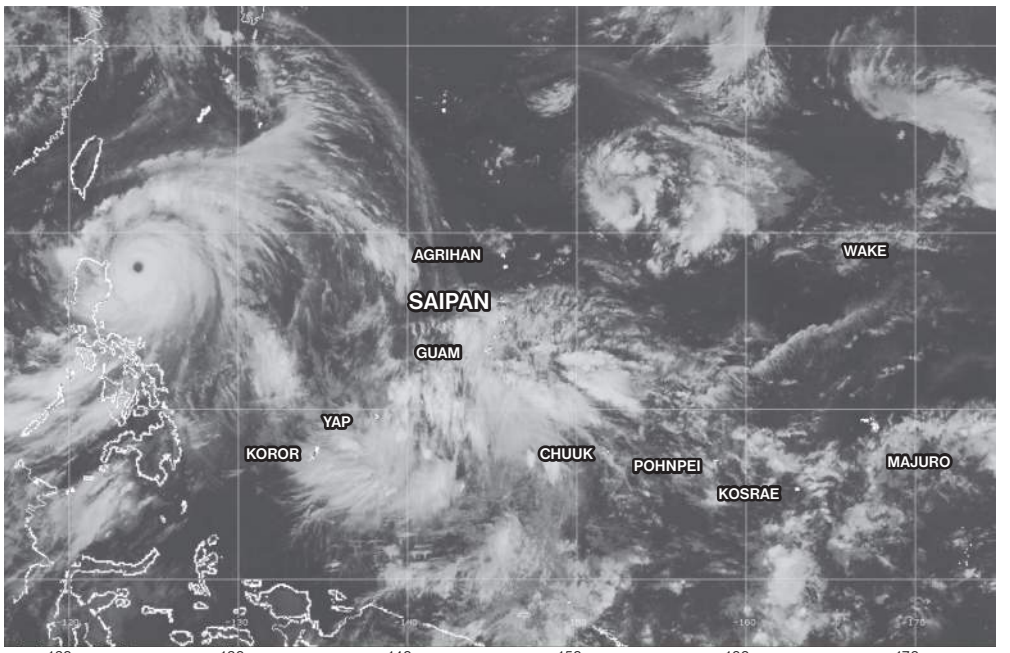
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Frederic Levy of ENT Carolina poses with our *Nanay.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Cloudy	Showers likely. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
85° 78°	84° 78°	85° 79°	84° 79°	85° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:52 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Cloudy skies, radar indicates only a few showers most notably in southern Guam waters. Ipan buoy shows combined seas at 4 to 5 feet, while altimetry shows far to our east 3 to 6 feet. KBDI came down a smidge to 330, it still remains in moderate conditions.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:28 PM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:16 AM	1:22 PM
Friday	-	12:59 AM	2:20 PM
Saturday	-	1:49 AM	3:22 PM
Sunday	-	2:45 AM	4:27 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	57° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 73°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 70°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 72°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Paris	Sunny	79° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°
Rome	Thunderstorms	86° / 66°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 72°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 70°
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 70°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	88° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:52 AM	High Tide	1.96
7:58 AM	Low Tide	0.68
2:00 PM	High Tide	1.53
7:18 PM	Low Tide	1.10

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 19, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7 from July 21

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1	Daily up to July 19
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	6, 4 July 23 to Aug 20
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7 from July 20

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

IN WAKE OF TYPHOON MAWAR

NTT supports Guam network infrastructure rebuild

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An NTT engineer utilizing a bucket truck for repairs in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An NTT bucket truck to be used for network repairs in Guam.

NTT Group, the parent company Docomo Pacific, announced the companies will provide support toward Guam's disaster recovery efforts through the provision of NTT network engineers and repair equipment in the wake of Typhoon Mawar. Damage to the island's infrastructure by the May typhoon has caused widespread, ongoing loss of power for residents and businesses as well as considerable damage to IT and communications infrastructure.

At the request of Guam's governor, NTT will deploy 10 network engineers and 12 bucket trucks from the company's headquarters in Japan to assist with recovery after the typhoon caused major outages among Guam's telecommunications operators.

"We were happy to assist in whatever capacity we could from the federal side," said James Moylan, delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives for Guam. "For our island to recover effectively requires a team effort, and this endeavor clearly emphasized that. Having accessible data would certainly help many families take another step towards normalcy."

"On behalf of the People of Guam, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all those uplifting our island in our time of need," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "By supporting our telecommunications restoration efforts, you are directly helping to restore normalcy to thousands of Guam families. Si Yu'os Ma'åse!"

Docomo Pacific, regional leader in telecommunications services, was the first to launch mobile 5G in Guam and Saipan in 2020; since then, the company has continued to maintain its high-speed mobile network in the region.

"NTT is proud to have such a strong relationship with the local government, businesses and residents of Guam," said David Jeppsen, chief of global public affairs at NTT. "Our engineers are undertaking this task with the goal of not only returning the island's networking infrastructure to its former strength, but also upgrading it with enhanced capabilities through more advanced technologies."

In addition to the technical support, NTT will make a donation to the American Red Cross to assist those still impacted by the powerful storm. The American Red Cross continues to provide thousands of meals per day along with relief supplies to help survivors in their recovery. To learn more about the American Red Cross recovery efforts or to make a contribution to recovery efforts, please visit: https://www.redcross.org.

For additional information about Typhoon Mawar disaster assistance, please visit the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense website: https://ghs.guam.gov/homepage.

NTT contributes to a sustainable society through the power of innovation. We are a leading global technology company providing services to consumers and business as a mobile operator, infrastructure, networks, applications and consulting provider. Our offerings include digital business consulting, managed application services, workplace and cloud solutions, data center and edge computing—all supported by our deep global industry expertise. We have over $100 billion in revenue and 330,000 employees, with $3.6 billion in annual R&D investments. Our operations span across 80+ countries and regions, allowing us to serve clients in over 190 of them. We serve over 75% of Fortune Global 100 companies, thousands of other enterprise and government clients and millions of consumers. ***(PR)***

UN chief urges Russia to revive grain deal with Ukraine

ROME (AP)—The U.N. chief on Monday urged Russia to resume the internationally brokered deal so that grain can be shipped from Ukraine's Black Sea ports, saying that otherwise, the world's most vulnerable among the hungry will suffer the worst consequences.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made the appeal during a speech in Rome at the opening of a three-day food summit.

With the recent collapse of the Ukraine-Russia grain deal, "the most vulnerable will pay the highest price," Guterres said. He lamented that there are already negative effects on global wheat and corn prices.

Wheat prices have risen more than 14% since Monday, when Russia pulled out of the grain deal, and corn prices are up more than 10%.

Both Russia and Ukraine are "essential to global food security," the U.N. leader said. He noted that they have historically accounted for 30% of global wheat and barley exports, a fifth of all maize and more than half of all sunflower oil.

"For my part, I remain committed to facilitating unimpeded access to global markets for food products and fertilizer from both Ukraine and the Russian Federation and to deliver the food security every person deserves," Guterres said.

"I call on the Russian Federation to return to the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative, in line with my latest proposal," Guterres said, urging the international community to stand united to find solutions for the issue.

Russia's refusal to renew the accord triggered the deal's collapse earlier this month. It said the Black Sea Initiative would be suspended until demands to get Russian exports of food and fertilizer to the world are met.

The accord had been brokered by the United Nations and Turkey as a way to keep grain flowing to developing countries, especially in Africa and the Middle East, despite the war unleashed by Moscow against Ukraine in February 2022.

When the grain deal was struck, the U.N. World Food Program regained a top supplier, allowing 725,000 metric tons of humanitarian food aid to leave Ukraine and reach countries on the brink of famine, including Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Yemen.

The deal's suspension as well as Russian attacks on the Black Sea ports of Ukraine have irked Russian ally China and as well as developing nations heavily dependent on the shipments to feed their people.

Besides the grain deal, the effects of climate change on food production and distribution will figure in discussions at the Rome summit.

"We need food systems that can help end this senseless war on our planet," Guterres said. "Transformation means new, sustainable food systems that can reduce the carbon footprint of food processing, packaging and transportation."

IRS ending unannounced visits to taxpayers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Internal Revenue Service said Monday it is ending its decades-old policy of making unannounced home and business visits, in an effort to help keep its workers safe and to combat scammers who pose as IRS agents.

Effective immediately, revenue agents will no longer make unplanned visits to taxpayers' homes and businesses "except in a few unique circumstances," the Treasury Department said in a statement. The agency will instead mail letters to people to schedule meetings.

"Today's announcement is the right thing to do, at the right time," new IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel told reporters on a call Monday.

The change ends "an era at the IRS," he said, reversing a practice by revenue officers whose duties include visiting homes and firms to resolve taxpayers' liabilities by collecting unpaid taxes and unfiled tax returns.

The agency in recent years has experienced more threats, in part tied to conspiracy theories that agents were going to target middle-income taxpayers more aggressively after the passage of a climate, health care and tax bill that provided $80 billion to step up tax collections.

In response, the agency last August announced a comprehensive review of safety at its facilities. And in May, the agency said it would begin limiting workers' personal identifying information on communications with taxpayers.

The Treasury Department's inspector general for tax administration said in a report that it was "concerned that taxpayers and anti-government or anti-tax groups with malevolent intent may use the Internet or social media to track down and identify IRS employees, their families, their homes, and personal information to threaten, intimidate, or locate them for physical violence."

The National Treasury Employees Union, which represents IRS workers, commended the agency for ending unannounced visits.

Nation

Biden admin sues Texas governor over Rio Grande buoy barrier

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Justice Department on Monday sued Texas Gov. Greg Abbott over a newly installed floating barrier on the Rio Grande that is the Republican's latest aggressive tactic to try to stop migrants from crossing into the U.S. from Mexico.

The lawsuit asks a federal judge in Austin to force Texas to remove a roughly 1,000-foot (305-meter) line of bright orange, wrecking ball-sized buoys that the Biden administration says raises humanitarian and environmental concerns. The suit claims that Texas unlawfully installed the barrier without permission between the border cities of Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Mexico.

The buoys are the latest escalation of Texas' border security operation that also includes razor-wire fencing, arresting migrants on trespassing charges and sending busloads of asylum-seekers to Democratic-led cities in other states. Critics have long questioned the effectiveness of the two-year operation, known as Operation Lone Star. A state trooper's account this month that some of the measures injured migrants has put the mission under intensifying new scrutiny.

AP

Migrants who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico walk past large buoys being deployed as a border barrier on the river in Eagle Pass, Texas, Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

In anticipation of the lawsuit, Abbott sent President Joe Biden a letter earlier Monday that defended Texas' right to install the barrier. He accused Biden of putting migrants at risk by not doing more to deter them from making the journey to the U.S.

"Texas will see you in court, Mr. President," Abbott wrote.

The Biden administration has said illegal border crossings have declined significantly since new immigration restrictions took effect in May. In June, the first full month since the new polices took effect, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said migrant encounters were down 30% from the month prior and were at the lowest levels since Biden's first full month in office.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that Abbott's policies as a whole have made it difficult for U.S. Border Patrol agents to access Rio Grande.

"Those are unlawful actions that are not helpful and is undermining what the president has put forward and is trying to do," she said.

In a letter last week, the Justice Department gave Texas until Monday to commit to removing the barrier or face a lawsuit. The letter said the buoy wall "poses a risk to navigation, as well as public safety, in the Rio Grande River, and it presents humanitarian concerns."

The state deployed the buoys without notifying the International Boundary and Water Commission or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mexico's secretary of state asked the federal government to intervene, saying the barrier violates international treaties.

The lawsuit is not the first time the Biden administration has sued Texas overs it actions on the border.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland in 2021 accused the state of usurping and even interfering with the federal government's responsibility to enforce immigration laws after Abbott empowered state troopers orders to stop vehicles carrying migrants on the basis that they could increase the spread of COVID-19.

ACROSS THE NATION

Florida couple pleads guilty to participating in US Capitol attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Florida couple pleaded guilty Monday to participating in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Jamie Buteau, 50, and Jennifer Buteau, 46, both of Ocala, entered guilty pleas in District of Columbia federal court, according to court records. Jamie Buteau pleaded guilty to a felony offense of assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers. Jennifer Buteau pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor offense of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. They're scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 20. According to court documents, the Buteaus joined with others in objecting to Joe Biden's 2020 election victory over then-President Donald Trump. A mob stormed the Capitol to try to stop Congress from certifying election results for Biden over Trump, authorities have said, and five people died in the violence. According to the criminal complaint, the Buteaus entered the U.S. Capitol building through the breached door and moved with a large mob to a lobby, where Capitol Police officers became overwhelmed.

Death of intellectually disabled inmate at Virginia prison drawing FBI scrutiny

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The FBI is looking into the death of an intellectually disabled inmate at a Virginia prison who's been identified as "a possible victim of a crime," the agency said in a document reviewed Monday by The Associated Press, months after a federal lawsuit was filed alleging the man was fatally beaten by correctional officers. The February 2022 death of Charles Givens, who was serving time for murder at the Marion Correctional Treatment Center, is the subject of a federal lawsuit alleging Givens was "sadistically tortured" and beaten before being found unresponsive at the southwest Virginia facility. "This case is currently under investigation by the FBI," said an email from an FBI victim specialist addressed to an attorney for Givens' sister. "A criminal investigation can be a lengthy undertaking, and, for several reasons, we cannot tell you about its progress at this time." The email was dated Sunday and shared with the AP by Kym Hobbs, Givens' sister and the plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in February. Nothing in the message indicated the scope or target of the apparent investigation.

Man gets 12 years in prison for shooting at Texas school that injured 3 when he was a student

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A 19-year-old was sentenced to 12 years in prison by a jury on Monday after being found guilty of attempted capital murder in a 2021 shooting at a Dallas-area high school that wounded two other students and a teacher. Timothy Simpkins had faced up to life in prison following his conviction last week by the Tarrant County jury. Simpkins was 18 when he opened fire on Oct. 6, 2021, inside Timberview High School in Arlington during a fight with Zaccheaus Selby, who was 15 at the time and was among those wounded. Taking the witness stand during the trial's punishment phase, he said that he understood what he did was wrong and that there was nothing he could say to justify what he did. Simpkins repeatedly told jurors that he carried the gun to defend himself. "I truly am sorry. I'm just asking for another chance," Simpkins said.

A maternity ward in Oregon is scene of fatal gunfire

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Gunfire erupted in a maternity unit of an Oregon hospital over the weekend, fatally wounding an unarmed security guard and leading to renewed calls Monday to protect health care workers from increasing violence.

Gun violence in America has hit supermarkets, churches, a synagogue, schools—and now a birthing center.

Police were summoned Saturday morning to Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland, with callers reporting that a man with a gun was threatening hospital workers, Portland Police Sgt. Kevin Allen said. By the time the officers arrived, shots had been fired and security guard Bobby Smallwood lay mortally wounded. Another hospital staffer was hit by fragments.

Police feared the worst.

"Officers believed this had the possibility of being an active shooter incident, so they converged on the hospital from all corners of Portland in a full-city response to address the shooter, assist with a possible mass casualty event, and evacuate those in harm's way," the Portland Police Bureau said Monday in a statement.

Workers and patients were told to shelter in place as officers searched for the shooter. He was located hours later in a van in suburban Gresham and was fatally shot by three Portland police officers, the PPB said. No details on that confrontation were released.

Smallwood, who was 44 and originally from Florida, was attended to by staff and then taken to another hospital with the highest-level trauma care, where he died.

"Please pray for my family as we lost my cousin Bobby Smallwood yesterday as he was protecting the birthing center at a hospital," his cousin Rachel Milligan Moreno, from Brandon, Florida, wrote on Facebook on Sunday. "Our hearts are broken."

The gunman's name was PoniaX Kane Calles, a 33-year-old who previously went by the name Reginald Kane Jackson, KPTV, a Portland TV station, reported.

Allen told reporters that it is especially tragic that deadly gunfire erupted at Good Sam, as the hospital is known, which he said should be a place of safety. The Oregon Nurses Association said Monday that violence directed at health care workers has increased at an alarming rate.

"It is the responsibility of every health care system and hospital administration in Oregon to do everything in their power to protect the safety of their patients and frontline caregivers," the union said.

It was the second time this month that a health care worker was killed in the Portland area. On July 16, a resident of a mental health care facility in Gresham allegedly stabbed to death a caregiver who was working the night shift alone.

Legacy Good Samaritan is rated as one of the best in Oregon. A video for the family birth center says patients are given private birthing suites. No alcohol, recreational drugs or firearms are allowed.

"We care deeply about your family's safety," the narrator says in the video, which shows a screen with multiple images from security cameras.

When asked Monday about security measures, the hospital declined to describe them, saying in a statement that staffers are "grief-stricken."

"We are focused on providing factual information to our employees and supporting those deeply impacted by this tragic event," the statement said, promising to provide additional information later this week.

World

PH president vows to defend territory, announces amnesty for rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday underscored his administration's resolve to defend the country's territory through diplomacy in a key speech but did not mention China, with which it has had an escalating series of conflicts in the disputed South China Sea.

Marcos also announced in his state-of-the-nation speech to Congress that he would offer an amnesty to armed insurgents and would crack down on smugglers and hoarders of agricultural products, whom he blamed for steep spikes in food prices.

Despite an array of problems and uncertainties sparked in part by the war in Ukraine, Marcos said the dedication and patriotism he had seen among Filipino workers in and out of government have kept him optimistic.

"With this in my heart, I know that the state of the nation is sound, and is improving," Marcos said to applause from lawmakers and top government officials in the heavily secured House of Representatives.

Marcos outlined reforms pursued by his administration to boost the economy following the coronavirus pandemic. He cited last year's 7.6% economic growth rate, which he said was the country's highest in 46 years despite weak prospects worldwide.

"We are still considered to be among the fastest-growing economies in the Asian region and in the world," he said.

Critics, however, hit Marcos for not mentioning human rights issues, including his refusal to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in its investigation of large numbers of killings under his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte's brutal campaign against illegal drugs.

More than 6,000 mostly poor suspects died in Duterte's police-enforced crackdown based on police pronouncements, but human rights groups say the real death toll was much larger. Police have acknowledged that dozens of suspects have been killed in the campaign since Marcos took office in June last year but said they had violently fought law enforcers.

Marcos has refused to bring the Philippines back into the ICC, in a decision that favored Duterte but was attacked by human rights activists.

Duterte withdrew the Philippines from The Hague-based court in 2019 in a move rights activists said was an attempt to evade accountability and prevent an international probe into the killings in the drug crackdown. The ICC, however, continues to have jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed when the Philippines was still a member state of the court.

Marcos, 65, took power in June last year in a landslide victory that was among the most dramatic political comebacks in recent history. His father was ousted as a dictator accused of widespread human rights violations and plunder in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that became a harbinger of change at the time in authoritarian regimes worldwide. He has refused to apologize and has steadfastly defended his father's legacy.

In February, Marcos approved an expansion of the U.S. military presence in the Philippines to add four new bases from five existing sites under a 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the longtime treaty allies. The move, which Marcos said would boost the Philippines' coastal defense, dovetails with the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China.

China warned the move "will drag the Philippines into the abyss of geopolitical strife and damage its economic development at the end of the day." But Philippine officials said the move was not aimed at China.

N. Korea fires 2 short-range ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the U.S. sending major naval assets to South Korea in a show of force.

In its third round of launches since last week, North Korea fired the missiles just before midnight from an area near its capital, Pyongyang, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It said both missiles traveled around 400 kilometers (248 miles) before landing in waters off the Korean Peninsula's eastern coast.

Its statement called North Korea's missile launches a "grave provocation" that threatens regional peace and stability. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said his government lodged a protest to North Korea over the launches, which is usually conveyed through its embassy in Beijing. He said Tokyo was doing its utmost for surveillance while stepping up trilateral security cooperation with Washington and Seoul. No damage has been reported related to the missiles, which, according to Japan's Defense Ministry, fell outside the country's exclusive economic zone.

The launches came hours after South Korea's navy said a nuclear-propelled U.S. submarine — the USS Annapolis — arrived at a port on Jeju Island. That underscored the allies' efforts to boost the visibility of U.S. strategic assets in the region to intimidate the North.

Last week, the USS Kentucky became the first U.S. nuclear-armed submarine to come to South Korea since the 1980s. North Korea reacted to its arrival by test-firing ballistic and cruise missiles last week in apparent demonstrations that it could make nuclear strikes on South Korea and deployed U.S. naval vessels.

Also on Monday, the American-led U.N. Command said it has started "a conversation" with North Korea about a U.S. soldier who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily fortified borders.

Andrew Harrison, a British lieutenant general who is deputy commander at the U.N. Command, which oversees implementation of the 1953 armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War, declined to comment about the state of the inquiry to North Korea or say what the command knows about Pvt. Travis King's condition.

"I am in life an optimist, and I remain optimistic," Harrison said during a news conference in Seoul.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said North Korea had only "acknowledged" receiving the U.N. message last week and had not provided any information or commented further since then.

"There have been no new contacts since last week," Miller said, adding that North Korea also had not responded to messages sent by U.S. civilian or military officials.

North Korea has remained publicly silent about King, who crossed the border during a tour of Panmunjom while he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

Russia says Moscow and Crimea hit by Ukrainian drones

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian authorities accused Ukraine of launching a drone attack on Moscow early Monday that saw one of the aircraft fall near the Defense Ministry's main headquarters, while the Russian military unleashed new strikes on port infrastructure in southern Ukraine.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said there were no casualties when the drones struck two nonresidential buildings in Moscow. Separately, a Ukrainian drone struck an ammunition depot in Russian-annexed Crimea, forcing a halt in traffic on a major highway, Russian authorities said.

In Moscow, Russian media reported that one of the drones fell on the Komsomolsky highway near the capital's center, shattering shop windows and damaged the roof of a house just about 200 meters (just over 200 yards) away from the towering riverside Defense Ministry building. The ministry's main headquarters has Pantsyr air defense systems placed on the roof.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the drone targeted the Defense Ministry's headquarters, which is located 2.7 kilometers (1.7 miles) away from the Kremlin, or was heading to some other target in central Moscow.

Another drone hit an office building in southern Moscow, gutting several upper floors — more visible damage compared to earlier drone strikes on the Russian capital.

Emergency workers were inspecting the damage and traffic was halted on sections of highways where the drones fell.

Ukrainian authorities didn't immediately claim responsibility for the strike, which was the second drone attack on the Russian capital this month.

In the previous attack on July 4, the Russian military said four of the five drones were downed by air defenses on the outskirts of Moscow and the fifth was jammed by electronic warfare means and forced down. The raid prompted authorities to temporarily restrict flights at Moscow's Vnukovo airport and divert flights to two other Moscow airports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted Monday that "the intensity of attempts to attack our regions with drones has grown."

"So measures are being taken, a very intense daily 24-hour work is underway," Peskov said, without offering any details about whether Russia's air defence systems have been enhanced because of the increased attacks.

Russian authorities said that another Ukrainian drone attack early Monday struck an ammunition depot in northern Crimea and forced a halt in traffic on a major highway and a railway crossing the Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014. Railway traffic was restored several hours later.

In Loving Memory of
Josephine C. Dela Cruz
Born to Life: May 15, 1955
Called to Eternal Life:
July 8, 2023 at Honolulu, Hawaii
In her new life she now joins her:
Son: Mariano Dela Cruz
Reared Parents: Mariano F. & Maria E. Aquino
Parents: Francisco Masga Dela Cruz & Ana Terlaje Cogure
Brothers: Antonio Aquino (Yap), Sixtus E. Aquino, Regino E. Aquino, Daniel E. Aquino, Quirino E. Aquino
Sisters: Margarita Aquino (Yap), Alicia C. / Roger Galang, Julie C. Dela Cruz
Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:
Daughter and Spouse: Tina Dela Cruz/Keith Robert P. Pangelinan
Grandson: Drake Constantine D. Pangelinan
Grand daughters: Danica Jade D. Pangelinan, Britney Madison D. Pangelinan
Miah Renisha Peter Dela Cruz
Brothers & Sisters:
Juan E. /Marylee P. Aquino & Family
Remedio Elameto & Family
Cynthia D./+Ambrose Pushparaj & Family
Lou D./Bob J. Lloyd & Son
Bernie D./Jim Clevenger & Family
Francisco C. Dela Cruz
Lucia D./Vicente Torres & Family
Joseph C./Virginia A. Dela Cruz & Family
Erokolano C./Maryann T. Dela Cruz & Family
Rudy C./Rheeta Dela Cruz & Son
She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, and Friends.
Daily Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church. Monday to Saturday at 6pm, and 7am on Sundays.
Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday August 2, 2023 at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso, Holy Rosary, and Last Respects will begin at 8:00am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Internment Services at Mount Carmel Cemetary.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You
From the Family

Good Housekeeping

Want to garden but don't have a lot of space?

By ALEX GROVES
The Orange County Register

Gardening may generally be easier for people who have a large backyard space because it allows them the flexibility to grow.

But apartment dwellers aren't shut out of the gardening game.

In fact, experts say there are a wide variety of options for things that can be grown on a postage-sized patio or a sunny window, including herbs, tomatoes and leafy greens, and the options don't stop there.

Darren Butler, a Los Angeles-area consulting arborist, landscape expert and co-founder of gardening help website GardenZeus, said there are lots of options from fruiting plants to even trees.

Here's a look at some of the varieties recommended from experts and how to grow them:

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Fresh aromatic culinary herbs.

Let's get lit

Whether growing indoors or outdoors, space can be negotiable, but light is definitely not.

Justin McKeever, a plant specialist at H&H Nursery in Lakewood, California, said that most fruiting plants need about six hours of light, whereas some broad-leaf herbs can do with three to four hours, so it's important gardeners make sure their small spaces will provide that kind of lighting.

Kathy Moine, a certified nursery professional on the sales team at Green Thumb Nursery in Lake Forest, California, said growing in a window is an option, but gardeners will want to make sure that the light coming in through the window isn't so harsh that it will fry plants. Windows that provide morning or late afternoon light exposure, or dappled light that's filtered through a nearby tree, are better options.

Moine added that in the absence of a well-lit patio or windowsill, gardeners can also use full-spectrum LED grow lights, with options beginning in the $30 range.

"They can play with the spectrum and see what might make their plants grow a little bit better," Moine said.

Patio picks

Experts recommend picking plants with an eye toward getting lots of production for the space they're in; or they suggest choosing plants that won't take up a lot of space to begin with.

Cherry tomatoes: Butler said cherry tomatoes are "one of the most productive vegetables" and can be kept in containers as small as 2 gallons. He recommends an indeterminate variety, meaning it will grow and produce throughout the season.

Determinate tomatoes: McKeever makes the case for determinate tomatoes, which are tomatoes that stay bushy instead of vining out and have a more set production, as these have more compact root systems. Tomatoes such as Early Girl, Roma, Health Kick and Tom Thumb are some of the common compact tomato varieties that work well for containers, he said.

Peppers: Moine grows both bell peppers and habaneros on her patio and says they grow well. McKeever notes there are now also varieties of pepper that are bred to be more compact in the way that a determinate tomato is and these include varieties such as Apache and Basket of Fire. McKeever said both varieties serve a dual purpose of being decorative and edible, and neither gets particularly large.

Strawberries: Butler recommends finding a variety of strawberry that produces more consistently instead of in one short burst. He recommends Seascape, a variety released by the University of California in 1992 and prized for its continual production. The variety is day neutral, meaning it will fruit continually so long as temperatures continue to stay moderate.

Vine and dandy

Butler said many apartment complexes have long vertical spaces that can be used for growing certain fruit trees and vining plants. He said to look for places near your door or a back patio where there is 6-by-5 feet of sunny wall.

"That's a huge opportunity," he said.

Vines: Some popular vines that can grow up a wall include plants such as grapes, passionfruit and bougainvillea.

Trees: Practically any fruit tree can be grown in an espalier fashion, which involves pruning and training the main stem and side branches of a tree to grow against flat surfaces such as a fence or wall, can be grown on a 6-by-5-foot wall, according to Butler.

One of his personal recommendations is mulberries.

"They're something you can't really buy in stores, maybe farmers markets occasionally, but they're too fragile to pack and ship," he said.

He said mulberries also grow very quickly so a gardener could potentially have mulberries the first spring after planting a tree.

How big should the pots be for these things? The bigger the better, but at a minimum, Butler recommends a pot that's 14-16 inches in diameter and about as deep.

He said "ninja" gardeners could potentially grow a tree in a 5-gallon nursery pot that's 10 inches in diameter and about 16 inches deep, but that's more of a challenge and they could potentially have much less yield.

Lower light

McKeever says to consider microgreens herbs as options for windowsill growing. He said herbs with bigger leaves generally do better in lower-light conditions so he recommends things such as basil, mint and Italian flat-leaf parsley, borage and comfrey.

He said smaller leaf herbs, such as thyme, oregano, savory and marjoram, don't do as well.

Microgreens grow easily and lots of kits can be found on Amazon, McKeever said.

"They're selling a lot of microgreen kits that are smaller containers that have a sponge at the bottom and you seed on top of the sponge and then when they pop up you are harvesting the first set of leaves," he said, adding that these greens can be harvested in seven to 10 days.

Start small

Butler recommends people using their patio or window space for gardening for the first time start small, perhaps with one or two plants, then branch out once they've mastered that. He said it's also important to realize there won't be a net financial benefit – that's hard for even gardeners with a lot of space. The pot the plants go in, the soil, the water, and the time spent nurturing them, all add up and make buying grocery store produce cheaper overall.

"There are dozens of good reasons for gardening, everything from learning to relaxation to having a living thing that you're nurturing," Butler said. "There are lots of reasons to grow plants but I would not start out expecting success in terms of a great yield immediately."

A lot of the process is just experimentation and trying things, Moine said.

"I know it gets frustrating when it doesn't work, but I always say gardening is 99% experimentation and 1% inspiration," she said. "So you try things and if it works you do it again."

Can my roofing lower my energy bills?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

With heat continuing to soar across the nation, you might be looking to every option available to lower your energy bills and endure the powerful sunshine beating down on your home. But just as your roof is your first line of defense against elements such as wind and rain, it's also your first line of defense against excessive heat. Here are some tips and tricks—some simple, some complex—about how to use your roof to beat the heat in both this and future summers.

Roofing color

This is almost literally the oldest trick in the book. Darker colors absorb heat, while lighter colors reflect and bounce it away. So the choice of roofing color (whether shingles, materials or just painting the roof) makes a big difference. While light tan and light gray are some of the most energy-efficient roofing colors, black, dark gray and dark brown are among the worst for deflecting heat.

That said, while a light-colored roof is most efficient, roofing color is probably the least important element of a summer-friendly roof. Nonetheless, when combined with other efficiency factors, a light-colored roof adds one extra step of effectiveness.

Materials and coatings

Material plays one of the biggest roles in energy efficiency. Asphalt shingles, tiles, wood shakes, concrete, metal shingles, concrete and terra-cotta clay tend to reflect more heat. In some cases, these materials require a light polymer coating to become fully effective as a cool roof.

Cool roof coatings come in numerous forms. A white reflective coating made of the correct materials might reflect as much as 80% of sunlight. Aluminum flakes suspended in resin can reflect between 50% and 70% of heat.

If you want to add a cool roof coating to the roof you already have, expect to pay between $.15 and $2.50 per square foot.

The choice of cool roof coating depends on many factors, including your location, budget and existing roof. A roofing pro can help you sort out your choices. In some cases, you might even qualify for a residential energy efficiency tax credit.

By the way, don't overlook your attic ventilation. Even an efficient cool roof still transfers some heat, and attic ventilation is a valuable tool to keep heat from invading your living space.

Rooftop solar power

Of course, you can do more with your roof than simply reflect it away. The most efficient use of the heat is to put it to work in your home. For this task, you can install rooftop solar panels or even solar shingles to soak up heat and convert it into electricity. This is one of the easiest forms of renewable energy and tends to pay for itself in a few years. Plus, solar systems are eligible for generous state, local and federal tax credits, so talk to a nearby tax pro to see how they can help your taxes.

On average, rooftop solar systems cost between $17,000 and $32,000 to install.

Life & Style

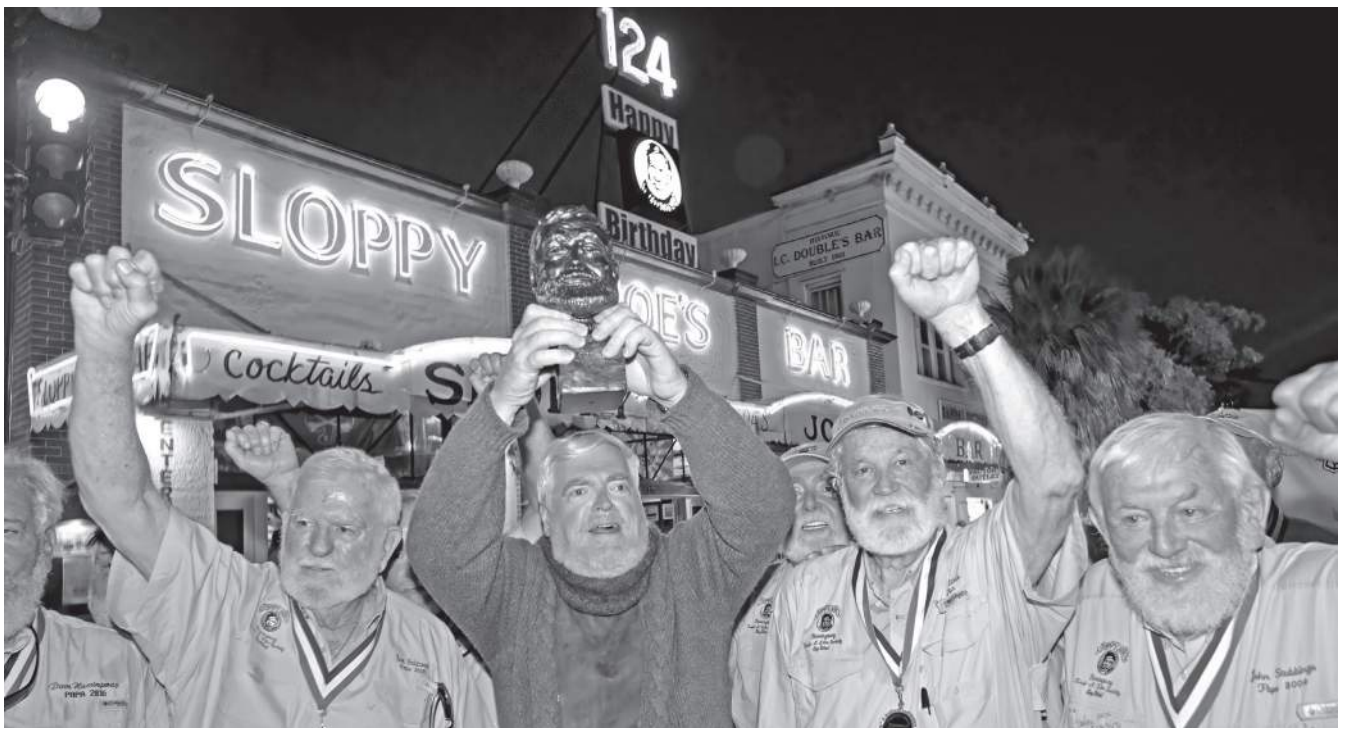
Bell tolls for Wisconsin man who wins Hemingway look-alike contest

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—On his 68th birthday, a white-bearded Wisconsin man won the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, a highlight of Key West's annual Hemingway Days celebration that ends Sunday.

Gerrit Marshall, a retired television broadcast engineer from Madison, prevailed Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a frequent hangout of Ernest Hemingway when he lived in Key West during the 1930s.

"This is the best birthday I have ever had," said Marshall, whose birthday falls just one day after the July 21 anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

On his 11th attempt, Marshall triumphed over nearly 140 other entrants in the contest that featured two preliminary rounds and Saturday's finals.



AP

In this Saturday, July 22, 2023, photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, Gerrit Marshall, center, hoists his trophy after winning the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Fla.

Competitors in sportsman's attire, most emulating the rugged "Papa" persona Hemingway adopted in his later years, paraded onstage at Sloppy Joe's before a judging panel of previous winners.

Marshall said he shares several characteristics besides appearance with Hemingway, and has written both nonfiction and short fiction.

"Like Hemingway, I have a love of the outdoors; I love fishing one heck of a lot," he said, citing catches of walleye and northern pike in Wisconsin waters, as well as angling for tarpon in the Florida Keys.

He said, however, that he can't match the late author's tally of four marriages.

"I only have one wife, but that doesn't matter—that's all I need," said Marshall.

As well as the contest and other festival events, the look-alikes focus on raising scholarship funds for Keys students. Hemingway Look-Alike Society president David Douglas estimated that they amassed close to $125,000 during the 2023 festival.

Hemingway Days salutes the vigorous lifestyle and literary legacy of the Nobel Prize-winning author, who wrote enduring classics including "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "To Have and Have Not" while living in Key West from 1931 until late 1939.

The 1975 cancels its shows in Jakarta and Taipei after band's same-sex kiss firestorm in Malaysia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—British pop rock band The 1975 announced on Sunday it was canceling its shows in Jakarta and Taipei after the Malaysian government cut short a music festival in the wake of the band's lead singer slamming the country's anti-gay laws and kissing a male bandmate during their performance.

The 1975 was scheduled to have a performance at We The Fest, Indonesia's annual summer music festival, in Jakarta on Sunday night, part of their 2023 Asia tour.

"The 1975 regret to announce that their forthcoming shows in Jakarta and Taipei will no longer be going ahead as planned," the group said in a statement posted on We The Fest's social media platforms on Sunday. They added that the decision was not made lightly "but unfortunately due to the current circumstances, it is impossible to proceed with the current shows."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, does not prohibit LGBTQ rights except in the conservative Aceh province.

Matt Healey, the lead vocal of The 1975, used profanity in his speech criticizing the government's stance against homosexuality, before kissing bass player Ross MacDonald. Footage of the incident was posted on social media and sparked a backlash in predominantly Muslim Malaysia.

Malaysia's Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil slammed Matty Healy's conduct late Friday and said in a Facebook post that homosexuality is a crime in the country punishable by up to 20 years in prison and caning.

It wasn't the first time that Healy used the stage to defend lesbian and gay rights. In 2019, he kissed a male fan during a concert in the United Arab Emirates, which also outlaws homosexual acts, according to media reports.

Jamie Foxx tells fans he is recovering from illness

Foxx

Academy Award winning actor, singer and comedian Jamie Foxx said in an Instagram video that he is recovering from an undisclosed medical condition.

"I went to hell and back, and my road to recovery has some potholes as well, but I'm coming back," Foxx, appearing thin and wearing a dark pullover shirt, said in the three minute, 15 second video. "I'm able to work."

Foxx, 55, was hospitalized in April with what his daughter, Corinne Fox, described at the time as a "medical complication" and Foxx did not disclose the nature of his condition in his first public comments since being hospitalized.

"I just didn't want you to see me like that ... I didn't want you to see me with tubes running out of me and trying to figure out if I was going to make it through," Foxx said, thanking his daughter, sister, God and medical professionals for saving his life.

"I went through something that I thought I would never, ever go through," Foxx said.

"Every once in a while I just burst into tears ... because it's been tough, man, I was sick ... but now I've got my legs under me so you're going to see me," Foxx said.

Castmates of Foxx's recent movie "They Cloned Tyrone" — David Alan Grier, Teyonah Parris and Tamberla Perry — told The Associated Press at the Los Angeles premiere of the movie on June 28 that they miss the star.

Woman asks Abby to convey message to man in need

DEAR ABBY: There is a man, "Gus," I am completely, madly in love with. The issue is, he likes to drink—a lot. The only thing he wants to do when he's not sleeping or working is drink. His health is rapidly deteriorating, and he lost his license for 10 years because of drinking and driving.

Last weekend, he picked me up and we went to the gas station. When we got there, he was so drunk he couldn't even pull up to the pump but just parked in the middle. When I told him he was too drunk to be driving, he drove off and left me standing at the gas station and hasn't spoken to me since. I guess that's how he decided to end our relationship.

He needs to get help, and that's why I'm writing you. He reads your column every single day and never, ever misses it. I love him. He is my He-Man and the best man I have ever met when he's not drinking. I'm asking you to please let him know he will always have my heart, that my love for him is unconditional and endless, and I will be praying for him. Please urge him to get the help he needs before it is too late. Thank you for helping him. I'm sure it will make a difference.

HIS GIRL IN MISSOURI

DEAR 'GIRL': I am sorry you are hurting, but if you step back, you may accept that as ugly a way as your boyfriend chose to end your relationship, it may have been a lifesaving favor to you.

Nowhere in your letter did you say that he (as wonderful as he may be when sober) has tried to overcome his addiction to alcohol. Until he recognizes how dangerous his behavior is and decides to do something about it, nothing will change, and your community is unsafe with this drunk behind the wheel. He may need rehab or Alcoholics Anonymous, but until he recognizes it and reaches out for help, his behavior won't change.

You, however, might benefit from attending Al-Anon meetings (al-anon.org/info). If you do, you will meet others who are also involved with alcoholics. It's obvious to me that you need all the emotional support you can get, and you can find it there.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of six years left me five months ago for another woman. We were engaged to be married later this year. After he left, I discovered that for the last two years he had been seeing this woman behind my back. It was devastating. We are expecting quadruplets in about four months, and he all of a sudden abandoned me and our babies. It has been a big shock.

Am I normal for feeling devastated, angry, mad and hateful all at the same time? And is it normal for me to want my ex to give me the closure I and his babies deserve so that I can move on with my life alone? What advice do you have for me?

SUFFERING IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SUFFERING: You have my deepest sympathy. Your feelings are normal, and you have good reason for your anger and outrage. Your next "step" should be into the office of an attorney who will help ensure that the boyfriend who abandoned you will support his four babies into adulthood. Because you are linked to him for the next 18 years, you cannot have total closure, but this would be a giant leap in the right direction.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD, WHAT'S A CONTROL FREAK?
THAT'S WHAT LAZY, SLIPSHOD, CARELESS, CUT-CORNER WORKERS CALL ANYONE WHO CARES ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT.
AM I IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR KING? SHOULD I KNEEL?
IF ANYTHING WORKS IN THIS WORLD, IT'S BECAUSE ONE OF US TOOK CHARGE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SIP
OH, THAT'S GOOD. WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN COMING IN FOR THIS? IT'S SO DELICIOUS.
DOES IT TASTE BETTER WHEN SOMEONE ELSE MAKES IT?
YOU'RE THINKING OUT LOUD AGAIN.
GOOD TO BE BACK, ETHEL!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OATS... IRON... ZINC...
RIBOFLAVIN AND FOLIC ACID. HUH, JUST WHAT I THOUGHT...
TO GET THE CRUCIAL MALT AND HOPS A BODY NEEDS, BEER IS A NECESSITY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

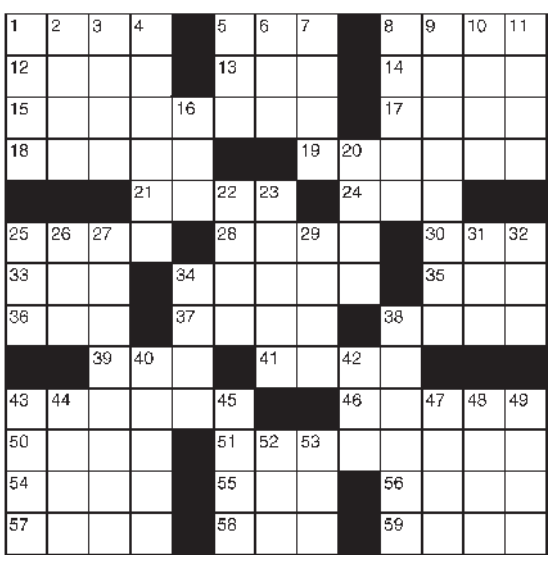
ACROSS
1 Labels
5 TV alien
8 Tater
12 Prefix meaning "all"
13 "Gosh!"
14 Teeny bit
15 Football field structure
17 Aspiring atty.'s exam
18 Fall bloom
19 Christie of mysteries
21 Protuberance
24 Food additive
25 Retained
28 Author Ferber
30 Scepter
33 Equi-
34 Auto style
35 Pie — mode
36 ACLU issues
37 Mideast ruler
38 Rhyming tributes
39 Heavy weight
41 Off-white
43 Video-game parlor
46 Places in the heart
50 Edict
51 Online essay, say
54 Scarce
55 Beach ball filler
56 "E Pluribus —"
57 Early auto-maker
58 "Indeed!"
59 Lights-out tune

DOWN
1 Forum wear
2 Book after Joel
3 Pesky bug
4 Mum
5 In the past
6 Guitar great Paul
7 Greek cheese
8 George Eliot's Marner
9 PhD candidate, for one
10 Hexagonal state
11 Info
16 Expert
20 FBI guy
22 Consider
23 "Frasier" pooch
25 White wine cocktail
26 Superlative suffix
27 Vacationer's mailing
29 Dealer's foe
31 Yucatan "Bravo!"
32 German article
34 Dispatch
38 Yield
40 Author Joyce Carol —
42 Joplin composition
43 Roundish do
44 Iranian money
45 Online auction site
47 Barrett or Jaffe
48 "The jig —!"
49 $ dispensers
52 Recline
53 Choice words?

Solution time: 23 mins.

I	M	A	M	■	O	L	E	■	O	S	H	A
N	I	N	O	■	R	I	A	■	O	P	U	S
K	I	N	G	I	A	R	■	I	A	M	P	■
■	■	■	U	D	O	■	T	N	O	T	E	S
G	I	L	L	S	■	S	H	U	N	■	■	■
U	S	E	S	■	R	A	I	N	G	E	A	R
A	L	A	■	A	U	D	E	N	■	T	W	A
C	A	P	E	F	E	A	R	■	S	I	O	P
■	■	■	R	A	F	I	■	V	A	U	L	I
S	U	B	A	R	U	■	P	A	T	■	■	■
A	G	E	S	■	L	A	S	T	Y	E	A	R
W	H	E	E	■	L	B	S	■	R	E	N	O
S	S	T	S	■	Y	E	T	■	S	K	E	W

Yesterday's answer 7-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bianca Santos, 33; Kate Beckinsale, 50; Sandra Bullock, 59; Helen Mirren, 78.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, get things right the first time and avoid emotional turmoil and opposition. Plan your adventures intelligently, and look at every aspect of a situation before you act. How you approach everyday issues will determine how the year unfolds. A steady pace forward will lead to results that give peace of mind. Self-reliance will build confidence. Your numbers are 9, 11, 23, 27, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* If you don't contribute, you won't have a say. Stand up for your beliefs and adjust your life and how you live it to benefit you. Reevaluate your associates and how you spend your time. Happiness is a choice, and it begins with you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Declutter your life, and you'll eliminate tension, stress and complaints. Restructure how you spend your time to ensure you take a path that leads to better health, financial stability and a happy outlook. Get organized and refresh your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Outsmart anyone interfering with what you want. Use your intelligence, physical attributes and courage to sidestep your way to the top. Counter anyone who tries to rewrite history or make you look bad. Advocate on your behalf. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your best foot forward and you'll gain ground. Educational pursuits will lead you in a direction that is eye-opening. Be persistent when faced with doubt or necessary change if you want to improve your life. Don't settle for something that isn't healthy. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't drag someone along who doesn't want to be there. Forge ahead alone and you'll accomplish what you set out to do. Trust your instincts and simplify your life. Distance yourself from drama and people who like to blame others for their mistakes. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Act in your best interest, not with emotional motives. A sound decision will make or break your spirit. Trust your instincts regarding travel, residential moves and educational pursuits. Be ready to act fast once you decide what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Call for help if it will make your journey easier. Pressure at home or work will dictate the changes that follow. Look for the most opportunity-filled path, and secure your position to validate your authenticity. Clear your head and share your intentions. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll face multiple choices that can change your direction, lifestyle or relationship with others. Take care of your responsibilities to avoid criticism and being forced into something you don't want. Control the situation instead of letting others dictate your next move. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refuse to let what others do agitate you. Think and do what's best for you and protect your money, possessions and reputation from anyone who tries to take advantage of you. Be resourceful, get your facts straight and create opportunities tailored to your needs. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a different approach when faced with opposition or setbacks, and you'll find a way to zigzag your way to higher ground. Focus on what you can do and not what's holding you back. Make change and opportunity priorities and start the process. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Choose your battles wisely. Humor anyone who is trying to coax you into an emotional struggle. Outsmart your way forward using charm, facts and empathy; you will come out on top. Keep life simple and affordable, regardless of what others choose to do. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a unique approach to investments and how you use your skills to earn a living. Look at partnerships that will help you get to where you want to go, and don't hesitate to change what isn't working for you anymore. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, intense and extravagant. You are dynamic and tireless.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1				3	2		
	5	6	4					
			6	9				
		8						
5		4						
					7		9	8
	9		3	5			2	
4		5		1	2		6	3
3			9		4		1	

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	8	4	6	2	9	7	3	5
7	6	3	5	4	8	2	1	9
9	2	5	1	7	3	4	8	6
2	5	6	7	9	1	3	4	8
8	3	1	4	5	2	9	6	7
4	9	7	8	3	6	1	5	2
3	1	9	2	6	5	8	7	4
6	7	2	3	8	4	5	9	1
5	4	8	9	1	7	6	2	3

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Difficulty: ★★ 7/26

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

POLAR ANIMALS Solution: 6 letters

W	O	L	F	E	V	I	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B
A	E	C	I	T	S	L	O	S	O	R	C	A	A	E
L	R	A	R	C	T	I	C	O	E	R	E	E	H	L
R	U	A	T	U	S	K	T	I	A	S	L	W	W	U
U	T	N	N	H	F	T	C	E	W	A	I	O	R	G
S	A	I	I	T	E	A	B	A	H	N	N	L	A	A
E	R	U	H	R	L	R	V	W	T	S	P	V	N	W
T	E	G	P	G	A	E	K	E	W	A	T	E	R	H
A	P	N	L	L	S	C	R	I	W	E	A	R	S	A
N	M	E	O	R	A	N	N	S	W	L	O	I	E	L
R	E	P	Ⓓ	B	A	D	O	Z	Q	K	B	N	L	E
E	T	Ⓞ	P	E	Y	N	I	F	F	U	P	E	B	L
B	Ⓖ	M	C	S	U	P	O	G	A	L	I	E	B	G
I	U	O	B	I	R	A	C	O	L	D	N	D	U	A
H	A	B	I	T	A	T	D	A	E	H	W	O	B	E

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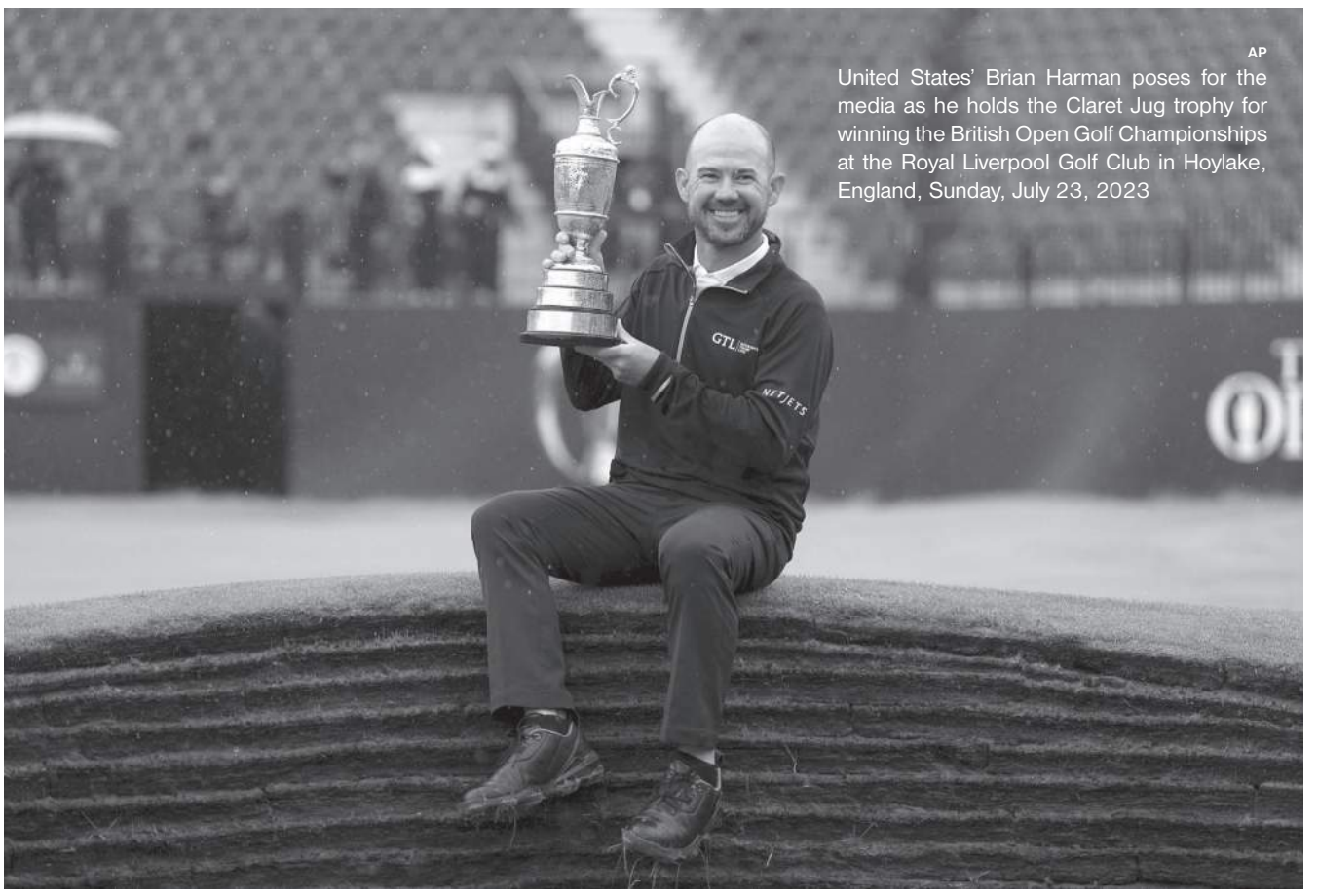
Antlers, Arctic, Beluga Whale, Blizzard, Boat, Bowhead, Bubbles, Caribou, Cold, Dive, Dog, Dolphin, Eagle, Elk, Glacier, Habitat, Hibernate, Humpback Whale, Lagopus, Narwhal, Ocean, Orca, Otter, Paws, Penguin, Polar Bear, Puffin, Seal, Snow, Solstice, Squid, Temperature, Tusk, Walrus, Water, Waves, Weather, Wet, Windy, Winter, Wolf, Wolverine

Yesterday's Answer: Plantains

The NEW **Wonderword Grand Millennium #1** in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-866-232-2367)

Harman wins British Open for his 1st major; Bhatia claims Barracuda



AP

United States' Brian Harman poses for the media as he holds the Claret Jug trophy for winning the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England, Sunday, July 23, 2023

HOYLAKE, England (AP)—Brian Harman turned back every challenge in the British Open, from big names to bad weather, and took his place among major champions Sunday with a victory that was never seriously in doubt at Royal Liverpool.

Harman twice responded to a rare bogey with back-to-back birdies, leaving everyone else playing for second. He closed with a 1-under 70, making an 8-foot par putt on the last hole for a six-shot victory.

At age 36, he is the oldest first-time major winner since Sergio Garcia was 37 when he won the Masters in 2017.

Harman had gone 167 tournaments over six years since his last win in the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. This is only his third title in his 12 years on the PGA Tour.

Masters champion Jon Rahm birdied his last hole for a 70 to make it a four-way tie for second place with Tom Kim (67), Sepp Straka (69) and Jason Day (69).

Harman took the lead on Friday morning with the second of four straight birdies early in the second round. He never trailed over the final 51 holes, leading by five shots after the second round and five shots after the third round.

He started the round in the rain with a smattering of boos from the grandstand. But he walked up toward the 18th green to a standing ovation, and tapped his hand to his heart to acknowledge the fans as he walked off the green. All that remained was signing his card — a 13-under 271 — and return to collect the silver claret jug, the oldest trophy in golf.

PGA TOUR AND EUROPEAN TOUR

TRUCKEE, Calif. (AP)—Akshay Bhatia birdied the closing hole in regulation, then capitalized in sudden death when Patrick Rodgers found a divot in the fairway to win his first PGA Tour title at the Barracuda Championship on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Bhatia, who turned pro at 17, earned full status on tour and a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs. He had been playing under special temporary membership since his runner-up finish at the Puerto Rico Open in March.

Bhatia converted a birdie from about 15 feet on the par-4 18th hole at Tahoe Mountain Club to finish with 40 points under the modified Stableford scoring system that awards five points for eagle and two for birdie while deducting a point for bogey and three for double bogey. The slender left-hander had nine points on Sunday.

That was good enough to match Rodgers, who scored six points in the final round.

In the playoff, Rodgers' tee shot on the 18th settled in a divot and he chunked his approach. His pitch was well short and he two-putted for bogey. Bhatia left his birdie putt just short and tapped in for the victory.

Rodgers remains winless in 246 PGA Tour starts. The 31-year-old former Stanford star failed to convert a 54-hole lead for the fifth time.

Two European tour players tied for third in the co-sanctioned event. Julien Guerrier scored 20 points on Sunday to finish with 37 alongside Jens Dantorp, who had 15 points in the final round.

LPGA TOUR

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP)—Cheyenne Knight and Elizabeth Szokol held off Matilda Castren and Kelly Tan by a stroke Saturday to win the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, the LPGA Tour's lone team event.

Knight and Szokol closed with a 5-under 65 in better-ball play at Midland Country Club, waiting out a delay of 1 hour, 40 minutes because of lightning while they were on the 13th hole.

The 29-year-old Szokol took her first LPGA Tour title, while the 26-year-old Knight also won the 2019 Ascendant LPGA. The U.S. duo tied for fourth last year after missing the cut in 2021.

They finished at 23 under, following a better-ball 61 in the second round Thursday with an alternate-shot 62 on Saturday to take a three-stroke lead into the final round.

Castren and Tan shot a 63. They also finished second last year.

The teams of Celine Boutier-Yuka Saso (62), Jodi Ewart Shadoff-Emma Talley (63) and Celine Borge-Polly Mack (63) tied for third at 20 under. Stacy Lewis and Maria Fassi had a 63 to finish sixth at 19 under.

KORN FERRY TOUR

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Pierceson Coody won for the third time in 13 months on the Korn Ferry Tour, closing with a 5-under 67 on Sunday for a two-shot victory over four players including his twin brother, Parker, in the Price Cutter Charity Championship.

The 23-year-old who starred in college at Texas moved to fourth in the points standings and assured himself of earning a PGA Tour card for next season. He won in Maine last year in his third Korn Ferry start and won again in Panama in February.

Pierceson and Parker are grandsons of 1971 Masters champion Charles Coody.

Pierceson finished at 25-under 263 at Highland Springs. Parker shot 66 and was 23 under alongside Ben Silverman (62), Thomas Walsh (69) and Chandler Phillips (69). Silverman has a victory and two runner-ups this season and has secured his PGA Tour card for 2024.

USA Basketball picks 14-player Select Team to train with World Cup squad

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Langston Galloway, John Jenkins and Eric Mika helped USA Basketball qualify for this summer's FIBA World Cup, and they're getting a reward for those efforts.

They are among 14 players announced Monday as members of the USA Basketball Men's Select Team, which will gather in Las Vegas next week to train alongside the U.S. World Cup team as it prepares for the tournament that starts in Manila on Aug. 25.

Also picked for the Select Team: Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren and Jalen Williams, Detroit teammates Cade Cunningham and Jalen Duren, Houston's Jalen Green, New York's Quentin Grimes, New Orleans' Herb Jones and Trey Murphy, Sacramento's Keegan Murray, Boston's Payton Pritchard and Minnesota's Naz Reid.

The team will be coached by Orlando's Jamahl Mosley, assisted by Indiana's Jim Boylen and Purdue's Matt Painter.

"We are confident that our USA Men's Select Team will do a great job helping prepare the men's national team for the 2023 Men's FIBA World Cup," said Grant Hill, USA Basketball Men's National Team managing director. "We have a good mix of young NBA players and those who helped us qualify for the World Cup, all of whom will play a huge role in our success in Manila, as we continue to develop the national team pipeline for years to come."

Galloway played in five of the six World Cup qualifying windows over the past two years for the United States. Jenkins and Mika each played in two of those windows, in which the Americans would put together essentially a new team every time composed mostly of G League players.

Jenkins and Reid were both members of the USA Men's Select Team in 2021 that trained with the team that USA Basketball sent to the Tokyo Olympics.

Board of Governors approves Jordan's sale of Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The NBA Board of Governors has voted to approve Michael Jordan's sale of the Charlotte Hornets to an ownership group led by Gabe Plotkin and Rick Schnall, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Sunday on condition of anonymity because the sale won't become official for at least another week.

The decision ends Jordan's 13-year run as majority owner of the franchise. He will remain on as a minority owner.

Jordan agreed to sell the team on June 16. However, when an NBA owner decides to sell it first must be approved by the league's Board of Governors.

Jordan's decision to sell leaves the NBA without a Black majority owner.

Plotkin has been a minority stakeholder with the Hornets since 2019, while Schnall has been a minority owner of the Atlanta Hawks since 2015. He has been forced to sell his investment in that team.

The sale price is reportedly around $3 billion, according to ESPN.

As an owner Jordan never came close to matching his success as a player, where he won six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls while becoming one of the game's greatest players ever.

Charlotte went 423-600 under Jordan, the 26th-best record over that span.

The Hornets never won a playoff series in that time and haven't been to the postseason in the past seven seasons.

The owner members of the Hornets new ownership group include artist J. Cole, Dan Sundheim, Ian Loring, country music singer-songwriter Eric Church, Chris Shumway and several local Charlotte investors, including Amy Levine Dawson and Damian Mills.

AP

Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan speaks to the media about hosting the NBA All-Star basketball game during a news conference, Feb. 12, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C.

Cowser's bat, arm lift AL East-leading Orioles to 3-2 win over Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Colton Cowser hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning after helping to throw out the potential go-ahead run in the eighth, lifting the surging Baltimore Orioles to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday night.

Ryan Mountcastle and Jordan Westburg went deep for the AL-East leading Orioles, who have won 13 of 16 games. Baltimore moved 2 1/2 games ahead of idle Tampa Bay.

Nick Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber drove in runs for the defending NL champion Phillies. Philadelphia has lost five of six.

Cowser entered as a defensive replacement for Aaron Hicks in the third inning after Hicks was hurt making a diving catch. The Orioles led 2-1 in the eighth when Castellanos lined a two-out single to center with runners on first and second. Schwarber scored easily from second, and Bryce Harper tried to put Philadelphia ahead by reaching home from first base. But shortstop Jorge Mateo took Cowser's throw and fired home to catcher James McCann, whose tag in Harper's chest just got him before his hand touched the plate.

"We did a lot of good things defensively," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "Enormous play."

"Huge," Cowser said.

After Gunnar Henderson walked with one out and went to second on a wild pitch in the ninth, Cowser lined a double to left off Craig Kimbrel (6-2) that went off the glove of diving left fielder Schwarber.

"Felt really good," Cowser said.

Bryan Baker (4-3) was on the mound for Castellanos' hit and was credited with the victory.

Cionel Pérez pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his first save.

"They're all frustrating," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "You want to win every game."

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, top, is tagged out by Baltimore Orioles' James McCann, bottom, during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 24, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Westburg put Baltimore in front 1-0 in the second with a solo shot. The opposite-field drive to right on a 1-0, 90 mph sinker was the first career home run for Westburg, a 2020 first-round pick who made his big-league debut June 26.

The Phillies tied it in the fifth on Schwarber's sacrifice fly before the Orioles went back in front in the sixth on Mountcastle's one-out homer to center.

ASTROS 10, RANGERS 9

HOUSTON (AP)—Chas McCormick homered and drove in a career-high six runs, and Yanier Díaz's game-ending RBI single in the ninth lifted Houston over AL West rival Texas.

The Astros moved within two games of the division-leading Rangers.

Rookie Alex Speas (0-2) walked Kyle Tucker to start the ninth. McCormick walked with one out. Díaz then lined his single to right field and Tucker slid in just before the tag. The play was upheld after a video review.

Ryan Pressly (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth. The Rangers led 9-6 when Aroldis Chapman walked consecutive batters with one out in the seventh. McCormick tied it with a three-run shot to left-center.

BREWERS 3, REDS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Christian Yelich hit a game-ending single, Sal Frelick launched his first major league home run and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

Milwaukee overcame a 456-foot,l two-run homer by Elly De La Cruz, who was robbed of a home run earlier on a leaping catch by center fielder Joey Wiemer.

Despite going 2 for 16 with runners in scoring position, the first-place Brewers moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Cincinnati, which had won five straight.

All-Star closer Alexis Díaz (3-2) entered in the bottom of the ninth inning and didn't get an out. He walked Blake Perkins and allowed a single to pinch-hitter Jesse Winker before Yelich drove in Perkins with a grounder into right field.

Devin Williams (5-2) pitched a perfect ninth for Milwaukee.

BLUE JAYS 6, DODGERS 3, 11 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Daulton Varsho hit a tiebreaking two-run double in Toronto's three-run 11th inning against Los Angeles.

Matt Chapman homered in the eighth for the Blue Jays, who earned their 11th win in 16 games.

Toronto loaded the bases in the 11th on third baseman Chris Taylor's throwing error and Whit Merrifield's single before Varsho's low line drive to right was misplayed by Jason Heyward, who wasn't charged with an error. Bo Bichette drew a bases-loaded walk from Phil Bickford (2-3) to make it 6-3.

Jay Jackson (3-0) pitched two hitless innings of relief and Jordan Romano finished for his 28th save, tying Baltimore's Félix Bautista for the AL lead.

Max Muncy homered in his third consecutive game for Los Angeles, hitting a tying shot in the eighth. Heyward also homered for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who took their first back-to-back losses since July 2.

CARDINALS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 6

PHOENIX (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer and then a tying single in the ninth inning against his former team, leading St. Louis over skidding Arizona.

Diamondbacks closer Andrew Chafin (2-3) walked Lars Nootbaar with the bases loaded and two outs, which forced home Willson Contreras for a 7-6 lead. Tyler O'Neill followed with a three-run double off Kevin Ginkel.

St. Louis snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 7-4 since the All-Star break.

Arizona has dropped five straight and is 5-13 in July.

Cardinals right-hander Adam Wainwright returned to the mound after three weeks on the shelf with a right shoulder strain. The 41-year-old went five innings and left with a 5-2 lead.

Giovanny Gallegos (2-4) gave up a go-ahead two-run double to pinch-hitter Evan Longoria in the seventh but got four outs for the win.

ROYALS 5, GUARDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Salvador Perez became the 10th player in major league history to hit 200 homers as a catcher and Ryan Yarbrough allowed one run in six innings, lifting Kansas City over Cleveland.

Perez hit a two-run shot in the sixth off Logan Allen (4-3) to put Kansas City ahead 4-0. He has 240 homers overall in 12 seasons. Hall of Famer Mike Piazza holds the big league record for homers as a catcher with 396.

Yarbrough (3-5) won at Cleveland for the second time in 15 days. Scott Barlow gave up two hits in the ninth before picking up his 12th save.

Kansas City ended a five-game skid while Cleveland fell four games behind first-place Minnesota in the AL Central.

TWINS 4, MARINERS 3, 10 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Carlos Correa's flare to right field evaded a sliding Teoscar Hernández and scored automatic runner Donovan Solano in the 10th as Minnesota won its second straight game in extra innings.

Solano moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Christian Vázquez against Paul Sewald (3-1), and Ryan Jeffers reached when no Seattle player covered first base on another bunt. Correa then sent a soft liner to right that Hernández couldn't catch.

Jorge Lopez (4-2) retired all three batters he faced in the top of the 10th for Minnesota, which is 9-2 since the All-Star break.

Max Kepler had an RBI double in the bottom of the ninth to tie the game for the Twins. Kolten Wong hit a pinch-hit, two-run homer with two outs in the top of the inning for the Mariners.

ROCKIES 10, NATIONALS 6

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nolan Jones hit a two-run homer, Alan Trejo had a double and three singles, and Colorado beat Washington.

Karl Kauffman (1-3) pitched four-plus innings of one-run relief for his first major league win as last-place Colorado (40-60) improved to 6-3 since the All-Star break.

Jeimer Candelario had a three-run homer and a double for the Nationals, who were looking for their first four-game winning streak of the season.

Patrick Corbin (6-11) gave up six runs — five earned — and 10 hits over 6 1/3 innings.

TIGERS 5, GIANTS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Tarik Skubal struck out nine while recording his first victory in over a year and Detroit handed San Francisco its season-worst sixth straight loss.

Skubal (1-1) held the Giants scoreless on two hits in five innings in a game that was a makeup of an April 16 postponement. His previous victory came against Oakland on July 21 last season. He had flexor tendon surgery in August.

Zack Short hit a two-run homer and Kerry Carpenter also drove in two runs for Detroit.

Ross Stripling (0-4) gave up three runs and 10 hits in six-plus innings.

PIRATES 8, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Carlos Santana hit a pair of two-run homers and Pittsburgh went deep four times against Yu Darvish to beat San Diego.

Liover Peguero also had a two-run drive and Jack Suwinksi added a solo shot. Darvish (7-7) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Ha-Seong Kim homered twice for the Padres, his first career multi-homer game.

Suwinksi had three hits, including his 21st home run. Peguero launched his first major league homer and finished with three RBIs.

Quinn Priester (1-1) allowed four runs over 5 1/3 innings for his first career win.

Guardians ace Bieber transferred to the 60-day IL

CLEVELAND (AP)—Guardians ace Shane Bieber will be sidelined until at least mid-September with elbow inflammation, a significant blow to Cleveland's postseason hopes.

Bieber hasn't pitched since July 9. He was transferred to the 60-day injured list Monday in a procedural move.

Manager Terry Francona said the 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner did not experience a setback while rehabilitating in Cleveland, but won't be back until the season's final month.

"Shane is actually self-reporting that he's doing great, which we love hearing," Francona said. "But when you do the math, it's going to be another six days until he throws, then three weeks after that until he gets back on the mound. That's six weeks right there."

The 28-year-old right-hander was the lone Guardians pitcher to make all of his scheduled starts before the All-Star break, posting a 5-6 record with a 3.77 ERA in 19 games.

Cleveland has also been without starters Triston McKenzie and Cal Quantrill for extended periods, forcing Francona to lean on rookies Tanner Bibee, Logan Allen and Gavin Williams to keep the defending AL Central champions in playoff contention.

The Guardians lost 5-3 to the last-place Kansas City Royals in the opener of a three-game series Monday, dropping Cleveland four games behind division leader Minnesota.

Bieber was placed on the 15-day IL following his July 9 outing against Kansas City, and a subsequent exam revealed no structural damage. The two-time All-Star is in the final year of his contract and was a candidate to be traded before being hurt.

By shifting him to the 60-day, Cleveland cleared a spot on its 40-man roster for left-hander Daniel Norris to have his contract selected from Triple-A Columbus.

NMI, Pohnpei split first two games in basketball friendlies

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The first night of the 2023 NMI-Pohnpei Goodwill Basketball Games saw some heavy action between the men's and women's teams last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For the NMI, Team Ol'Aces women laced up their basketball shoes and took on the women of Pohnpei in a thrilling game that ended in favor of the home team, 56-37.

Led by Cassandra Camacho's 12 points and Irish Pagarao's 11 points, Ol'Aces had a team made up of both youth and experience—with even some who traded their soccer cleats just for that night's game.

Pohnpei came in hot and was behind by just one point heading into the second period, 8-9, but Ol'Aces, coached by Connie Camacho put their game into overdrive and led by 13 points at the end of the third period, 38-25.

Pohnpei didn't let up and carried their aggressive game with them until the end—as they were not afraid to go for the steal or body block when they could. Pohnpei's Vanessa Helgenberger put up 12 markers, assisted by Myra Edward's 9 points, and Sylvania Seneres-Amor's 8 points.

In the end, Cassandra and Pagarao's swift movements and pinpoint accuracy with their shots helped Ol'Aces pull away in the final minutes of the fourth quarter and held off Pohnpei by 19 points, 56-37.

After the women's game, the Team Ol'Aces men suffered a crushing defeat against a big and mighty Pohnpei men's team, 79-105.

Though OlAaces led in the first minutes of the game, Pohnpei came bum-rushing into Ol'Aces' line of defense and caught up to end the first period down by just 1 point, 22-23.

However, Pohnpei continued to strip Ol'Aces defense down to almost rubble and pulled away by 16 points, 56-40 by the end of the second period.

Rejections, steals, and aggressive tactics by Pohnpei overpowered Ol'Aces and reduced them to a quiet fourth period—just 19 points, while Pohnpei shot up from 72 points in the third period to 105 points.

Ol'Aces' Kevin "The Big Hit" Fitial ended his efforts in the court with 21 points and was tied with Preston Basa after six shots made from 3-point range, while Airson Atan put up 15, and Douglas "Spider" Schmidt had 13 markers.

For Pohnpei, Aurelio Pluhs scored the highest with 25 markers, followed by Trexler Primo's 13 points, and Hart Yamada's and Connor Boylan's 11 points each.

LEIGH GASES

Ol'Aces' Eli Aughenbaugh gets rejected by Pohnpei's Aurelio Pluhs and the ball flies out of the court as he attempts a layup in Day 1 of the 2023 NMI-Pohnpei Goodwill Basketball Games Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

The women's Ol'Aces team poses for a photo with the Pohnpei women's team after the first game of the 2023 NMI-Pohnpei Goodwill Basketball Games last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For the women's games, Ol'Aces head coach Camacho said that it was a great experience for the team despite not practicing before the tournament. She said the team is composed of her team from the previous 2022 Marianas Village Pride Basketball League and Pagarao's team, plus four soccer players.

About Pohnpei's women's team, she said "they were pretty aggressive. Size-wise, they're kind of bigger than us. They're not afraid to body up. It was a good experience for the girls so they can see the competition—how aggressive they are, because in our village league, we're not as aggressive."

For Pohnpei's head coach Randy Helgenberger, he said their team started off pretty well but their shots wouldn't fall in later. "That's the game right, you miss them, you make them, then you just have to live with the results." On the Ol'Aces team, he said "they're pretty good. I thought they were slow but they picked it up real fast and did pretty well.

On the bleachers watching the game was Pohnpei Sen. Jayson Walter who came down to support the team. As a basketball player himself who played in the CNMI for the Micronesian Games last 2006, he said he was the first person from Pohnpei who came out of the basketball community to become a politician.

As for the game, he said "unfortunately, Pohnpei lost but I give them heart because they're still high school kids but they came out…and it all worked out. CNMI's point guard is awesome. She is on a different level than our team."

Ol'Aces Women 56 – Cassandra Camacho 13, Pagarao 11, Rangamar 10, Mika Lopez 5, Marielle Lopez 4, S. Camacho 4, Alferos 4, Connie Camacho 2, Simram 2,Labausa 1.

Pohnpei Women 37 – Vanessa Helgenberger 12, Joakim 9, Seneres-Amor 8, Edward 5, Ponapart 3.

Scoring by periods: 9-8, 24-16, 38-25, 56-37.

Ol'Aces Men 79 – Fitial 21, P. Basa 21, Atan 15, Schmidt 13, Barcinas 3, Kabiriel 3, T. Basa 3.

Pohnpei Men 105 – Pluhs 25, Primo 13, Yamada 11, Boylan 11, Mallarme 10, Elias 8, Ioanis 7, Helgenberger 6, Miingi 6, Shoniber 4, Torres 2, Aguon 2.

Scoring by periods: 23-22, 40-56, 60-72, 79-105.

JAKEY

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swimmers you see on TV or YouTube casually warming up in the same lane next to you and it made me ponder on how crazy it is to see them in real life after watching them swim growing up.

Just some of the swimmers Deleon Guerrero and the rest of the CNMI swimming team are watching and rooting for in the World Championships include U.S. Olympians Ryan Murphy, who is the gold medalist in the backstroke; Lilly King, the world record-holder for the breastroke; and David Popovici, who is the world record holder in the 100m freestyle.

CNMI national swimming coach Hiroyuku Kimura congratulated Deleon Guerrero for finally getting the butterflies out of his stomach following his debut last Sunday.

"He did very well. Because we don't have a swimming pool but our swimmers never gave up to do their best under such a situation. Of our four swimmers in this World Championships, Jakey especially has a bigger disadvantage for competition. The other three already had experience of swim competition after COVID-19. But Jakey hasn't had an experience in a long time. I respect his bravery and strong spirit very much," he said.

Yesterday, Deleon Guerrero tackled his favorite 100m breaststroke event, while Litulumar will see action today in the 50m backstroke. Deleon Guerrero, Litulumar, Aleksenko, and Batallones will also compete in the 100x4 medley relay.

Aside from Kimura and the four national swimmers, assistant coach Christian Villacrusis and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh comprised the rest of Team NMI in Fukuoka, Japan.

The NMISF would also like to thank the following for helping the swimmers and coaches fund their trip to Japan: CNMI Legislature, Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho, Aqua Resort Club, BAB Restaurant, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Dae Jang Kum Restaurant, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, Gold's Gym Saipan, Islander Rent-a-Car, Korean House Restaurant, Lohas Massage, Mobil Oil Marianas, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Quick Print, Shell Marianas Corp., Saipan World Resort, Zen Corp. Zoom Chicken, Saipan Swim Club parents, Tsunami Saipan parents, and all who supported NMISF's fundraising activities.

RAYMUND

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the race.

He also wasn't the only Duaman Duathlon participant with a Saipan connection, as former island resident Ariel Lansangan also took part in the race and even finished third in the 55-59 age group.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said Tolentino and other club members who venture out to compete abroad proves that their members are truly dedicated to the sport and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"I am very proud and happy that so many of our Run Saipan members are doing an amazing job outside of Saipan this summer. From Ann Bang, Chong Nam Lee, and now Raymund Tolentino. I feel we are not offering enough events and races that they have to go outside because that's how hardcore they are with their sport. I speak for the entire Run Saipan family when I say we are very proud of Raymund right now and everyone else that competed over this summer."

TOROS

From Page 20

In the last inning, their last run came in from a triple off Keoni Rosario's bat. The Blue Jays only had three hits against Braves pitcher Damian and ended the game without a single run scored.

In the Comets-Little Cubs game, the Comets had a field day against Little Cubs pitcher Tatum Jones. The Comets scored three runs in the first inning, then two in the second for a three run lead as the Little Cubs only scored two.

Three more runs came from the bats of the Comets in the next inning, followed by just one run, but finished it off with five runs for a 14-run game.

The Comets' leadoff batter Kody Guerrero scored two of his team's runs and got on base in all his four at-bats. Mallens also scored two runs for the team.

For the Little Cubs, after Tatum scored the first run, Don Camacho scored the second and the third, while Liam Palacios scored their fourth run.

This Saturday, July 29, the Blue Jays will go up against the Comets at 9:30am; then the Little Cubs vs. the Twins at 12pm; and the Toros vs. Braves at 2:30pm.

After the round-robin games, there will be a one-game elimination for the playoffs.

Harman wins British Open for his 1st major; Bhatia claims Barracuda.

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Sports

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Jakey makes debut in World Championships

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jakey Deleon Guerrero finally got the monkey off his back after making his debut in the 100m breaststroke event of 20th FINA World Championships last Sunday in Fukuoka, Japan.

The 17-year-old Marianas High School student was the first of four CNMI swimmers to plunge into competition in the 2023 World Aquatics Championships.

"My first event was the 100m breaststroke, where I clocked in at 1:12. Looking back, I am thankful for all the support my teammates, family, and friends provided me as this was my first official swim in over five years," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he's mighty proud that he was able to represent the CNMI on the world stage.

"It made me happy to have my parents watch me and see that their son was on the big screen because they would not stop sharing how proud they were that their son was on the screen."

FINA

The CNMI's Jakey Deleon Guerrero in action in the 100m breaststroke event last Sunday in the 20th FINA World Championships last Sunday in Fukuoka, Japan.

As for finally swimming in an official competition pool, Deleon Guerrero admitted that he and his teammates Isaiah Aleksenko, Mario Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar are beyond elated to have the great opportunity.

"It honestly is a real shocker due to the fact that we swim in a 23-meter short course pool, so the length of swimming varies by a lot. It felt a lot longer than a 100m at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool."

The CNMI has been bereft of an official competition pool after the mothballing of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi years back.

Deleon Guerrero also confessed being a bit starstrucked seeing his swimming idols up close and personal in Fukuoka, Japan.

"It feels unreal because the

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Raymund completes Duaman Duathlon in PH

By MARK RABAGO
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Tolentino

Run Saipan member Raymund Tolentino has continued his running hobby even while on vacation in the Philippines and even took part in the duathlon this past weekend.

The 53-year-old Westco Saipan salesman finished 10th place in his age group in the full distance of Swim Bike Run PH's 2023 Duaman Duathlon in Clark City, Pampanga.

Tolentino negotiated the 5-kilometer run, 20-km bike, and 2.5-km run in 1:25:04. He had splits of 27:54, 40:08, and 17:02.

He said the hardest part of the Duaman Duathlon is that he was unfamiliar with the course.

"No practice at all. I just really want to try to experience the Pinoy crowd and it did not disappoint me! It's a different feeling being surrounded by 900 participants and competitive athletes!" he said.

Tolentino, who originally is from Meycauayan City, Bulacan, said the only downside of racing with 900 other participants is the overcrowding, adding that everyone was literally elbow to elbow and sometimes stepping on each other at the starting line.

"I think it is a good thing though. It only means a lot of people are in this kind of sport! The best part of the race was to finish it without any injury or mechanical malfunction. Overall, it was a great experience to be with our *kababayans* (countrymen)! There were a lot of people and it was very hot but you won't really notice it because it was fun," he added.

Tolentino, who usually runs along the Froilan C. Tenorio Saipan Beach Pathway, dedicated his latest accomplishment to his friends, family, and loved ones who supported him throughout

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Toros, Braves, Comets survive 1st games of U12 tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES

Toros' Sky Lizama is out at home as Twins catcher applies the tag just in time during the first game of the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament last Saturday morning at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field.

Three teams have nicked wins in the first day of the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field in Susupe.

After a triple-header that began with the 9-12 age group of the teams Toros and Twins, the Toros won, 13-2; then, the Braves silenced the Blue Jays, 10-0; and the Comets defeated the Little Cubs, 14-4, to finish up the first round-robin games.

The Toros, led by pitcher Leighton Tenorio, overpowered the Twins later in the game as they made 11 unanswered runs. Tenorio went three for three at-bats and struck out seven Twins batters.

The Toros put up two runs in the first inning when Tenorio got on base and rounded home after Caleb Reyes' RBI, then Kainoa Tenorio's RBI base-hit brought in Reyes.

Then, in the second inning, Toros' Sky Lizama hit a single, stole second and then third base, but was tagged out on his way home.

The only two runs by the Twins were made in the second inning by Mymy and A.J.. The rest of the lineup could not get anymore runs against the Toros and lost in a 11-run deficit.

After, the Braves went on to win a shutout game against the Blue Jays, 10-0.

The Braves put up two runs in the first inning from brothers Damian and Dayton Merchadesch.

Both boys scored two more runs in the next inning after four runs scored from the middle to the end of the lineup. One more run scored by Aiken Norita on a double by Don Barcinas.

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